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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Info sought in killing

by Zak Szymanski

The San Francisco Police Department is asking the community for help in solving an apparent homicide case involving a local gay man who may have known his attacker or been the victim of a pick-up crime.

Rodney Drury, 41, was found dead in his Mission District apartment on the 1300 block of Stevenson Street on July 8. He suffered multiple blows to the head, according to reports, and his apartment showed no signs of forced entry or robbery.



Rodney Drury

Drury frequented several local bars in the Castro, Tenderloin, and South of Market districts, according to SFPD Inspector Michael Gaynor, who named the Cinch, the Gangway, and the Hole in the Wall as some of his previous hangouts. Of particular interest is anyone who may have been seen with Drury in the week prior to his death. He was last seen on July 4, according to Gaynor, and last spoke with friends on July 5.

"He was actually seen with somebody the week prior to Fourth of July and nobody knows who that person is. We are very interested in finding out who that person is," Gaynor told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "We are interested in talking with anyone he was with, or seen with, during that week. Anyone who saw him at the bars or saw him going home with anyone on Tuesday [July 5], it would really be important to hear from them."

Gaynor declined to discuss more specific details of the case, including a possible motive for the killing.

Drury's father, Mel Drury, of Casper, Wyoming, told the *San Francisco Chronicle* last week that his son had worked as a grocery store clerk before he became sick with HIV. Drury reportedly was living on income from disability benefits and had recently returned from a camping trip.

On Monday, July 25, Mel Drury told the *B.A.R.* that no new information had surfaced but that he was in contact with local authorities regarding the case.

"Nothing has come through yet. I called the medical examiner and we're waiting for the reports back, which could take several weeks. Otherwise all we know is that he was murdered," he said, adding that his son was "a good and kind person."

Anyone with information is asked to call police at (415) 553-1145 during business hours. Alternatively, those calling at other hours or who wish to remain anonymous can call SFPD's tip line at (415) 575-4444. ▼

'Draconian' antigay measure headed to California ballot

by Cynthia Laird

Equality for All, a new campaign organization launched earlier this year, has come out swinging against a proposed California constitutional amendment that would strip away rights for legally recognized domestic partners and permanently ban marriage protections for same-sex couples. Equality for All made its announcement Monday, July 25 in response to Attorney General Bill Lockyer's authorization for sponsors of the antigay measure to begin collecting signatures to qualify the amendment proposal for the June 2006 ballot.

Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, blasted proponents of the campaign.

"This is the lesson we have to learn from Proposition 22," Kendell told the *Bay Area Reporter*, referring to the antigay initiative passed by state voters five years ago. "They will absolutely and with a straight face lie — outright lie. They did it on Proposition 22 and now

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Bill Wilson

NCLR's Kate Kendell, left, with civil rights attorney Eva Paterson at the formation of the Equality for All campaign earlier this year.

Pendulum closing sparks protest and accusations

by Matthew S. Bajko

The closing this month of the Pendulum — the one place in the Castro many African Americans called home — for a complete makeover of the 18th Street bar is adding to the acrimony between its owner and community activists who accuse him of being racist.

The activists allege the decision to shutter the bar is retaliation by Les Natali, who is in the process of selling the Pendulum, for their filing charges that he engaged in racist practices at his bar across the street, San Francisco Badlands. But former employees of the Pendulum dispute that contention, saying they knew last winter they would eventually lose their jobs and the bar would be closed for renovations.

Natali's move came less than a week after the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control refused to revoke his liquor license at the Badlands, saying it lacked sufficient evidence to find Natali discriminated against his patrons based on race, and conditionally approved his request to transfer the Pendulum's license into his name. The ABC issued its decision on the same day the *Bay Area Reporter* reported that Natali had decided to sell the Pendulum in order to settle a year-old lawsuit.



Supervisor Chris Daly at last week's news conference outside the now-shuttered Pendulum bar in the Castro.

he learned the city had approved Natali's application for the necessary permits. MacNeil and Natali then met with the Pendulum's nine employees last Wednesday, July 20 to inform them of their decision to close the bar and lay off the staff. While Natali offered the employees various severance packages ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 depending on their length of employment, MacNeil invited the staff to reapply for their jobs when he is ready to reopen the bar.

"I thought it was a perfect time to remodel it. No one is going in there because they are pissed at Les. I figured now would be a good time to do it," said MacNeil. "When it is done — hopefully in three months — then we can have a fresh start and have a beautiful bar."

While Natali still owns the Pendulum until the paperwork is completed, MacNeil has been working with both the architect and the contractor on remodeling the bar to his specifications. He said since Natali has the permits to do the work, he saw no reason not to proceed.

"I agreed with Les that no matter when the permits came through, we would go. To restart that whole process it would sink our deal," he said. "If they say you can go, you have to take that opportunity to go."


MacNeil wants to make the bar complete-
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Staff of the Tom Waddell Health Center's Transgender Clinic prepare to celebrate 10 years of service.

Waddell's TG clinic celebrates 10 years

by Zak Szymanski

To understand the historical significance of the Tom Waddell Health Center's Transgender Clinic, one must travel back in time about 14 years, when many more people believed that gender reassignment therapy was a questionable practice, and yet a dedicated group of professional providers decided to ask the city of San Francisco to begin funding and providing these services to those in need.

Recognizing that the transgender population would seek hormones on its own – and without medical supervision, would often do so unsafely – the staff on Waddell's HIV team began discussing the possibility of providing a medically sound alternative for hormonal therapies, combined with primary medical and psychosocial care targeted toward lower-income people in the Tenderloin, lower Nob Hill, and South of Market districts.

"A couple of us looked around and said there's this whole population that is at risk and that isn't coming to us for medical care, and yet there's something that they want – hormones – that we could

be providing if it was safe to do so," recalled Mark Freeman, a nurse practitioner at the clinic. "It was before the term harm reduction had become popular but that was essentially what we were arguing, that with this specialized service they would come to us for what they want, and they would stay for complete healthcare, which would include paying attention to their sexual risk factors, drug risk factors, as well as their athlete's foot or colds or chronic illnesses. The idea was that if people get into primary care and have their own medical provider they are more likely to take their health seriously and believe they can do something about it."

The primary objection to getting such a clinic off the ground, said Freeman, was that "nobody else does this in public health." It took three years of making a case to San Francisco's Department of Public Health for the clinic to get the go-ahead, a move "that was a big step for DPH, and they should be given credit for that," said Freeman. "There were certainly no respectable clinics that provided these services free or low-cost."

It then was up to the staff to conduct research on the effects of hormones despite a lack of long-term

studies, and to develop a protocol for how to administer them and monitor the people taking them.

"We were able to assure ourselves that whatever risks were there, they did not seem to be overwhelming," said Freeman. "And if people were able to take those risks, and identified themselves as a transgender person, and they were willing to engage in primary care, then we wanted to be there for them."

Ten years ago, Tom Waddell's transgender clinic became the country's first specialized city-funded clinic of its kind. To celebrate this milestone, an invitation-only party will be held at the Center for Sex and Culture, Tuesday, August 2, from 6 to 10 p.m. Expected guests include Mayor Gavin Newsom, members of the Board of Supervisors and Human Rights Commission, and representatives from area nonprofits and social service agencies. Lipstick Conspiracy, Andy Toon, Veronica Klaus, Nicki Harris, and Ben Keim will provide entertainment. Most of all, the party is to honor the transgender clinic's past and present clients, who have an open invitation to the event.

"The party is really to celebrate

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Gay travel expo switches venues

by Matthew S. Bajko

Each fall since at least 2000 the Gay Travel Expo set up shop at the Hyatt Regency at 5 Embarcadero Center. Steps away from the BART and Muni stations, the hotel's facilities were an ideal location for the downtown office workers and business professionals the vacation fair attracted.

But last year the expo saw attendance plummet by 40 percent due to a picket launched by hotel workers fighting with hotel owners over a new contract, which led to a subsequent lockout. Only 1,400 people attended the expo, compared to 2,000 people in 2003.

To avoid the same situation this year, the organizers of the expo are moving the event to the Hotel Nikko. The ongoing labor dispute between the hotel workers union, Unite Here Local 2, and 14 San Francisco hotels remains at an impasse nearly a year after it began. With no end in sight to the labor dispute, and Mayor Gavin Newsom and countless others boycotting the hotels involved, the gay-owned company that hosts the fair notified the Hyatt in late June it was switching sites.

"We are not going to put ourselves in the same position," said David Paisley, projects manager for Community Marketing Inc.

With no time to move or cancel the event last year, the organizers opted to remain at the hotel but made a \$500 donation to a fund for the union workers. Expo organizers also had the hotel remove its bars from the event, waived its entrance fee, and asked attendees not to spend money at the hotel during the expo.

"We encouraged people to not spend a dime at our show but support the exhibitors that were there," said Paisley. "But a lot of



Visitors to a previous Gay Travel Expo check out materials on Indonesia.

people, who for years came to our show, really didn't want to pass a picket line. We wish the situation had been different ourselves."

The decision to move the expo this year means another financial hit to the small business, said Paisley. Between last year and this year, Paisley estimated the company has lost \$25,000. The new exhibition space is 10,000 square feet, 2,000 less than the Hyatt's room. The result is the number of booths is down from 125 to 110.

"Last year we saw a shrinkage of 20 percent of exhibitors and didn't collect anything at the door. We have a loss this year because we had to shrink the show 10 percent," said Paisley.

Due to the union's help last year in negotiating its contract with the hotel, Paisley said it is costing relatively little to end its contract with the Hyatt.

"When we recontracted with the Regency after what happened last year, we had a provision in there to get out this year relatively cheap if it wasn't resolved," said Paisley, who declined to discuss specifics of the contract.

The union dispute affected the company in another way. Through its discussions with union representatives, who have been arguing over their own healthcare benefits, Paisley said his company changed its healthcare policy for its five employees.

"We basically now are giving all our partners full medical coverage, even our part-time workers," said Paisley. "Certainly, we support the union's stance on needing to have healthcare for their employees. It forced a change in our own personnel policies."

Paisley, who said Hyatt staff have been understanding of the company's decision to pullout, said he hopes there is resolution to the dispute soon.

"We hope for everyone's sake that there is a speedy resolution. It can't go on forever," he said. "It is hurting San Francisco, which loses out on big conventions, and it hurts small businesses, not to mention it is hurting the workers."

This year's expo will take place Wednesday, September 21, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Hotel Nikko, 222 Mason Street. Admission is \$5. ▼



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Court rules against Nitke in CDA lawsuit

by Liz Highleyman

A federal court ruled this week that erotic photographer Barbara Nitke and the National Coalition for Sexual Freedom presented "insufficient evidence" that the Communications Decency Act inhibits constitutionally protected speech, according to

a July 26 NCSF press release.

Nitke and the NCSF — an organization advocating for the rights of BDSM practitioners, polyamorists, and swingers — filed a federal lawsuit in December 2001 seeking to overturn parts of the CDA that could lead to prosecution of individuals and groups that operate Web sites featuring sexually explicit material.

In 1997, the Supreme Court struck down part of the CDA, but left standing an obscenity provision under which material deemed "patently offensive" according to "local community standards" is not protected by the First Amendment unless it has redeeming literary, artistic, social, or political value.

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Creating Change registration now open

compiled by Cynthia Laird

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has announced that early bird registration is now open for its Creating Change conference, which takes place in Oakland this fall. NGLTF held the long-running skills building conference in the East Bay city in 1999 and that event drew the largest attendance in the history of the event.

NGLTF also announced the local host committee for the conference, slated for November 9-13. Kim Singh, Kate Ransom-Walsh, Danny Kirchoff, Patricia Kevena Fili, and Joe Hawkins are members of the committee. Jonathan Winters and Yosenio Lewis, who served on the host committee in 1999, are serving in advisory roles.

Plenary speakers have also been announced and include: Lorraine Hutchins, an author and activist who put the "B" in LGBT; Juba Kalamka, a.k.a. Pointfivefag, a founding member of the homophop group Deep Dickollective; John D'Emilio, an award-winning author, professor, and founding director of the task force's policy institute; Urvashi Vaid, an attorney, writer, and activist who's a

former executive director of the task force; Helen Zia, a longtime activist and author whose work on a groundbreaking case of anti-Asian violence was featured in an Academy Award-nominated film, *Who Killed Vincent Chin?*; and Mary Kay Henry, executive vice president of the Service Employees International Union and a founding member of SEIU's Lavender Caucus.

The conference program is also full of challenging sessions, panel discussions, roundtables, film screenings, caucuses, and networking sessions that deliver skills needed for activist leaders to create change in their communities, organizers

said. Early bird registration is \$225 per person, with a limited income rate of \$150; the rates are good until August 31. Attendees 16 and under and 65 and over will be admitted without charge. Creating Change takes place at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Oakland. For more information, visit www.creatingchange.org.

Marin Pride Dance

The spirited annual Marin Pride Dance takes place from 8 p.m. to midnight next Saturday, August 6 at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel, 1010 Northgate

Drive in San Rafael. Produced by Marin Life, Spectrum Center for LGBT Concerns, Entre Hommes, and Marin Life Plus, the dance is one of the largest and liveliest events in Northern California.

Organizers said the event is a great way to meet others in the community. "Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people from Marin sometimes express frustration about not having a gathering place where we can connect with our neighbors," said Kirk Bell of Marin Life Plus. "This dance is the best way I know to mingle, meet, and network with hundreds of other LGBT folk from Marin and the North Bay."

Paula Pilecki, executive director of Spectrum, noted the dance has been a successful summer focal point for the last two years. This year's dance will feature popular North Bay DJ Costa spinning hits from the 1960s to the present, including Latin favorites. There's a \$10 suggested donation, a no-host bar, and light hors d'oeuvres; attendees 18 and over are welcome at the dance.

"I'm looking forward to a great party," said Brian Cross of Marin Life. "It's the golden opportunity to meet many, many other LGBTQ folks from Marin and the wider Bay Area."

For more information, call (415) 457-2487, ext 119 or go to www.spectrummarin.org. ▼

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More information sought on street fair fee

by Kevin Davis

While the San Francisco Board of Supervisors budget committee Thursday, July 21 voted to continue an ordinance raising police permit fees for street fairs that serve alcohol, all parties – fair promoters, the police department, and committee members – agreed to cooperate and scrutinize both fair finances (incoming and outgoing) and police protocols before calling the plan workable.

After addressing fair leaders' objections to higher permit fees Supervisor Tom Ammiano urged everyone to, in effect, give posturing and rhetoric a rest for the sake of "the bigger picture."

After some discussion, the matter was continued until "the call of the chair," meaning Ammiano will probably not specify a date until all parties step up with more information.

"Let's not hide behind good works we do," said Ammiano. "Let's take those same efforts in doing good works and work something out. We can see there's no good guys or bad guys."

Supervisor Jake McGoldrick, author of the proposed legislation, pointed out that the budget committee itself gives "possibly billions to charitable organizations."

If the plan goes into effect, street fairs that serve alcohol would be required to pay higher fees for police services, in effect reducing the amount of money returned to charitable organizations by several of the fairs, particularly those catering to the LGBT community.

A cost recovery spreadsheet McGoldrick handed out showed that of 13 alcohol-serving events, the city billed them each equally, \$5,195 (contradicting last week's Bay Area Reporter story that was based on the current fee rate scale) for all but the LGBT Pride Celebration, which was billed \$10,390.

The cost of policing the Folsom Street Fair, for example, amounted to \$25,998. The city's net subsidy to Folsom was



Supervisors Bevan Duffy, Ross Mirkarimi, and Tom Ammiano at last week's committee meeting.

\$20,803. So the city covered four-fifths of the cost, the fair producers paid one-fifth.

Net subsidies by the city for police services started at just \$1,959 for the Up Your Alley Fair, which this year takes place Sunday, July 31 along Dore Alley in the South of Market District.

Board members pledged to solve the discrepancy equitably, but urged event accountability as part of the equation.

"If people think every street fair is cut from the same cloth, they're not," said Ammiano. "They have different levels of commitment, credibility, and productivity."

"We have no clear information on revenue sources that allow fairs to function, not knowing where some are keeping the profit," agreed Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi.

"Unless folks open their books and show us things to a controller working with the mayor's budget office, I don't think it's unfair to make folks pay a greater share," McGoldrick said, on adjusting the proposed fee rate scale. "We'll give them a break based on well-founded criteria, on a basis as objective as possible."

"I feel like we're swimming in the dark without a methodical formula," said Mirkarimi on his reluctance to get behind the legis-

lation until they could ascertain the most appropriate fees to assess, who called the process "shooting from the hip." "We're imposing this without the input and without dialogue of the fairs. We need a more standardized and just formula. We're on our way, but the formula does not reflect that yet."

"This is in a sense a can of worms that opens up many issues, which in a sense is not a bad thing," Ammiano explained. "When we get trapped, we look for a funding balance but predicated on things that are not clear. McGoldrick is on the right track. We need to look at the issue with more scrutiny so we don't come up with a solution based on imperfect assumptions."

Acting SFPD Field Operations Commander Steve Tacchini suggested one way to recoup the cost of the fairs' police presence.

"The city of San Francisco should be participating in the profit from alcohol sales," said Tacchini. "This is what drives these events. [They are selling] because it's a money maker."

"Budweiser makes money," said McGoldrick, echoing Tacchini's move to widen the frame of discussion. "That's part of the formula."

"It's clear to me the police

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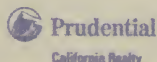
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OPEN FORUM

Santorum wants it both ways

The news that a senior aide for homophobic Senator Rick Santorum (R-Pennsylvania) is gay broke last week in this paper and others across the country. Robert Traynham II, who has worked for the senator for eight years, acknowledged to blogger Mike Rogers that he is gay in a phone call, during which Traynham defended his boss and said he's "proud" of his work. Another spokesman for Santorum told a different reporter that the senator was aware of Traynham's sexual orientation.

This was not an "outing" in the typical sense. Traynham readily confirmed to Rogers what was known already in at least some Beltway circles. It also should not have been a surprise to a longtime political operative as skilled as Traynham that, once he spoke to Rogers, his statements about his own sexuality would become public. We picked up the story, and were hardly the only media outlet to do so. Nor was the story's coverage limited to the gay media — some mainstream papers, particularly in Pennsylvania, also covered the issue. Santorum, who faces a tough re-election campaign next year, has made many controversial and homophobic statements about gays over the years, and has voted repeatedly for anti-gay legislation; that one of his top staffers is an openly gay man is news.

But don't tell that to Howard Kurtz, the *Washington Post's* media writer. In his online column Monday, Kurtz took *Philadelphia Inquirer* editor Amanda Bennett to task over the paper's decision to publish a story. "Why on earth would the *Inquirer* run such a piece?" Kurtz asked in his column. Dismissing Santorum's well-known antigay history, Kurtz added, "[D]oes that mean his staffers' private lives are fair game?" We'll answer that question for you, Mr. Kurtz: yes, it does. And Santorum's whining to Fox News about what he called the "outing" of his staffer and an invasion of privacy makes it even more newsworthy. Kurtz also refused to print Traynham's name, which, as Kurtz himself

surely knows, could be found in a matter of seconds doing a basic Google search.

The fascinating issue here, however, is Santorum himself. He is, after all, the same man who two years ago, in his now infamous "man on dog" interview with the Associated Press, took the position that the right to privacy does not exist in the U.S. Constitution: "You have the right to anything. Does that undermine the fabric of our society? I would argue yes, it does. It all comes from, I would argue, this right to privacy that doesn't exist in my opinion, in the United States Constitution, this right that was created in *Griswold* ... and abortion. And now we're just extending that out. And the further you extend it out, the more you — this freedom actually intervenes and affects the family."

Those are scary thoughts. Yet Santorum wants it both ways: on the one hand, privacy doesn't exist in the country's founding document — especially when it comes to gay and lesbian Americans — and on the other hand, Santorum's gay staffer has a right to privacy regarding his personal life. Santorum's defenders — and those squeamish mainstream journalists — are only raising the privacy issue now because the senator has been exposed for the hypocrite that he is.

Santorum knows that gay and lesbian Americans can be as virtuous as anyone — he said as much Monday night when he was Jon Stewart's guest on the *Daily Show*. But his continuing insistence that gays shouldn't be able to wed legally is based on nothing more than his own warped beliefs. ▼

Editorial



NMAC crosses the line

by Cleve Jones

On July 31, when participants in the National Minority AIDS Council's HIV Prevention Leadership Summit arrive in San Francisco, they will be coming from throughout the United States to share strategies for effective HIV prevention methods within communities of color. It is an important conference, created to address the increasing prevalence of HIV within minority populations, particularly African Americans and Latinos. The summit's various workshops and lectures will certainly be very useful to those on the front lines of the fight against the epidemic. Unfortunately, they are going to have to cross a union picket line to attend them.

The Hilton Hotel, site of the NMAC prevention summit, is one of 14 San Francisco hotels being boycotted by Local 2 of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union, Unite Here. The Hilton is part of the Multi-Employers Group of hotels, which last year locked out its workers for seven and a half weeks as part of a nationwide campaign to divide workers, drive down wages, and limit health care benefits. On September 15, 2004, San Francisco union members voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike and boycott against the MEG hotels. In addition to the Hilton, the boycotted hotels are the Argonaut, Crowne Plaza, Four Seasons, Fairmont, Grand Hyatt, Holiday Inn Civic Center, Holiday Inn Express, Holiday Inn Fisherman's Wharf, Hyatt Regency, Mark Hopkins, Omni, Palace, and the Westin St. Francis.

The National Minority AIDS Council's Web site says that NMAC, established in 1987, "is the premier national organization dedicated to developing leadership within communities of color to address the challenges of HIV/AIDS." Under the leadership of Executive Director Paul Kawata, NMAC has made enormous contributions to our struggle against HIV/AIDS, assisting local communi-

ties with training, technical assistance and conferences while promoting sound health and social policies. One of NMAC's most significant achievements has been to dramatically increase the participation of people of color in HIV/AIDS policy-making bodies.

The 4,300 hotel workers locked out last year are largely from minority communities, particularly Asian and Latino. And it will come as no surprise to anyone in our community to hear that large numbers of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people are also employed in San Francisco's hotels and restaurants. In fact, Local 2 was one of the first unions in the nation to embrace the cause of LGBT workers and the larger community. The contracts it has fought for included groundbreaking HIV benefits and nondiscrimination clauses. Local 2 has brought union dollars, volunteers, and votes to benefit LGBT and LGBT-friendly candidates for public office.

It has fought against repressive, homophobic ballot measures and championed our cause within the national AFL-CIO.

Thirty years ago, pioneering gay activists like Harvey Milk, Howard Wallace, and Morris Kight dreamed of a day when our community would work in coalition with organized labor. When Harvey Milk took the Teamster boycott of Coors beer to the gay community he broke new ground and charted the course for recognition, respect, and cooperative action. The Coors boycott was historic, with results that still impact our community today. Because of those early efforts and the hard work of thousands of LGBT workers, openly gay San Francisco activists like Sal Rosselli of the Service Employees International Union and Jack Gribbon of Unite Here have risen to national prominence within the AFL-CIO and unions throughout the country have taken up the cause of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights.

Unite Here is one of several major labor unions seeking to reform, modernize, and strengthen the labor movement. Union volunteers and union dollars are crucial to the success of candidates from racial, ethnic, and sexual minorities. Stronger unions mean more candidates elected at the local, state, and federal level who support sound HIV/AIDS policies as well as the basic rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender citizens. All Americans who oppose the extreme right-wing Republican agenda share a stake in the outcome of this effort.

This week we will witness the sad spectacle of an organization dedicated to the health and well-being of communities of color and gay people crossing the picket line of a union that is equally dedicated to the health and well-being of the same communities.

The leadership of NMAC has expressed regret that the HIV prevention summit was scheduled in a boycotted hotel, but declined to move despite repeated attempts by Local 2 to communicate with the agency. It would, of course, have been a challenge to move the summit to a different venue but a greater challenge is being faced daily by the people NMAC and Local 2 both represent — the challenge to live, work, and find health-care in America today.

No doubt the leaders of NMAC regret their choice of the Hilton Hotel. But according to Kelly Dugan, a young lesbian activist working for Local 2, the bottom line is clear: "The National Minority AIDS Council is putting money in the pockets of a huge corporation that is cutting health benefits for minority workers." ▼

Cleve Jones, founder of the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, is a longtime San Francisco activist, recently returned from exile in Southern California.

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

AC4A's contradiction?

And Castro For All – the group picketing the Badlands – complained bitterly when Les Natali closed down the Pendulum. But isn't that a contradiction on AC4A's part, when it is trying to close down the Badlands because it's owned by Les Natali?

Arthur Evans
San Francisco

Gimme a break

The boys in the Castro may be shallow, but they are not racist. A young, buffed black boy walking in the Castro would get more attention than some effeminate, overweight, middle-age man of any color. The sole purpose of And Castro For All is to close and board up three gay bars and put young queers out of work. If you're serious about discrimination, start with ageism and body image.

John Denning
San Francisco

My two cents regarding this whole Badlands thing

The Human Rights Commission is not a court of law.

This case has not gone through a court of law. Les Natali has not been found guilty of anything. This would involve having gone through a court of law. Which it, I repeat, has not.

It is so easy to declare someone innocent or guilty just because. (Kind of like what George Bush and his friends like to do.)

I'm really sorry there have been questions of behavior within a neighborhood bar. If a doorman or a bartender has acted out of line, that person should be reprimanded. A witch-hunt to destroy a person's business is wrong.

Wrong!

The Castro has been home to many forms of discrimination: against race, against age, against the handicapped, against business, against artists.

This "community" that many believe is pure and magical is not without its flaws. Flaws have always been there, they will always be there. That's just the way society is.

By the way, I do not know Les Natali. I have never stepped foot into any of his bars. I have been following his trial and execution in the pages of the press and not in any legal forum.

Just remember ... if it can happen to him, it can happen to you.

Jimmy Donahue
San Francisco

What about the big picture?

Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and/or race is wrong and intolerable. During recent observation of major public efforts to address that discrimination, however, I find a parallel between the effort to gain acceptance for gays in the military and the effort to boycott Badlands and to get the owner's business license suspended. The parallel reveals people who are blinded by their justifiable outrage, and the results are seriously misplaced priorities.

Rather than work to include gays and lesbians in our enormous military, our world would be safer if we focused our time and energy instead to reduce the size and limit the ventures of our globetrotting armed forces. Similarly, rather than work to make people feel welcome in a bar or to suspend the bar owner's license because of exclusionary practices, our friends and neighbors would be healthier if we focused our time and energy instead to reduce the presence of bars, alcohol, and other recreational drugs in our lives and to shift our social activities to other pursuits.

The military's discrimination against gays and a bar's alleged discrimination against blacks are offensive and unacceptable, but our anger about that discrimination must not cause us to overlook larger problems. On both issues, let's try to see the forests, not just the trees.

Carl Stein
San Francisco

Questions HRC's objectivity

As a longtime San Francisco/Bay Area resident, I have seen in the gay community an unfortunate tendency to become instantly hateful and judgmental toward anyone accused of being politically incorrect prior to any objective evidence regarding the situation. If I were to accuse any political leader, SF agency, or company of discrimination against me as a gay man, there would be protesters out making threats and grand antidiscrimination speeches and proclamations before the ink was dry and long before or without any response from the person or agency that I was accusing.

I have no knowledge of the owner of Badlands, Les Natali. I also have no knowledge of Mr. Natali's accusers.

I have had dealings with the San Francisco Human Rights Commission that makes me question its ability to be objective. It was my experience that when I asked a simple question regarding how to handle a sit-

uation with a transgender-identified person, I was immediately attacked and treated like I was the enemy. In trying to do the right thing and not offend in a situation I was unfamiliar with, I became the evil being and had to listen to a hysterical, insulting tirade from a HRC member. So I do wonder if HRC actually "heard" and investigated the accusations or merely jumped into witch-hunt mode. Like I said, my experience with HRC was not one of intelligent interchange.

Lastly, what is even more disturbing is the immediate dismissal by the anti-Natali camp of the independent investigation by state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. I can tell you – from long experience in SF politically correct situations – that should Mr. Natali be completely and undeniably found innocent of all accusations, those people who are now shouting the loudest for his destruction would not even whisper the simplest apology. They would just disappear, leaving a bad aftertaste and feelings behind.

For the record, I believe that racial, sexual, gender, national origin, etc. discrimination is one of the greatest evils we all face in this world. But please be aware that there are those who will use our good intentions against us.

Alvin Anderson
Oakland, California

Why measure bisexuals?

I found your decision to print Dale Carpenter's slathering rant against bisexuals ["Do bisexual men exist?" *OutRight*, July 21] to be rather imbalanced. Of course, many readers hailing from either the "gay" or "straight" communities may indeed agree with Carpenter that bisexuals don't exist, since, of course, these readers didn't "turn out" to be bisexual themselves. (Believe me, we're all sorry they were just pretending during their transition.)

But I would ask them why facile responses to culturally manufactured imagery are now accepted as the proof of sexual identity and behavior. I would ask them why, against all evidence, they continue to presume that bisexuality means eternal, equal, and simultaneous attraction to two sexes. And I would ask them why they so desperately need bisexuals to be measured in the first place.

John Milton Hendricks
San Francisco

Do we need more Milk?

San Francisco has a Harvey Milk Plaza, a Harvey Milk Public Library, the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, and the Harvey Milk Center for Recreational Arts. Is there really a compelling reason to install a memorial to Milk in City Hall?

The Bob Ross Foundation has recently announced a challenge grant of \$25,000 toward the erection of this monument ["Milk memorial project needs money, volunteers," *June 30* and "Let's give Harvey some hope," *Editorial, June 23*], and while it is not my business to tell the foundation how to spend its funds, it does seem that Harvey Milk is more than adequately honored in San Francisco, and that the challenge grant money could be better spent through an AIDS-related organization or similar nonprofit.

The same kind of memorial madness came into play with Cesar Chavez. Despite the fact that Chavez had been honored by naming a school in his memory, a successful effort was mounted to change the name of Army Street to Cesar Chavez Boulevard. This caused great disruption, and a lot of anger, and it was totally pointless.

I doubt that George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, or Abraham Lincoln have as many memorials as San Francisco has created to honor Harvey Milk. When is enough enough?

William I. Bernell
San Francisco

Enough pettiness to go around

I read the July 7 column by Jim Provenzano ["Faking the team"] and I was very disappointed. Too often the community has been labeled insular, bitchy, drama-filled, and petty – this column does nothing to dispel that view. Moving beyond the emotional history between the Montreal OutGames and the Gay Games, to individually single out Brian Jung in order to vilify and malign his character is inexcusable.

Jung is not responsible for the divide between the Montreal OutGames and the Gay Games – other individuals should take that responsibility. The reasons the athletes choose to go to the Montreal OutGames are their own and have a much larger scope than being some part of a conspiracy to "destroy" the Gay Games movement. They deserve the support of their community.

Having known Jung for over six years, I can attest his integrity and values are beyond reproach. I hope the *Bay Area Reporter* can realize that building community and support for all LGBT individuals should be the mission of this paper.

Steven Danielson
Oakland, California

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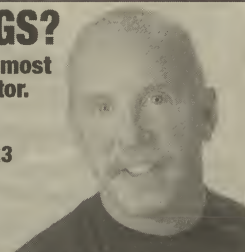
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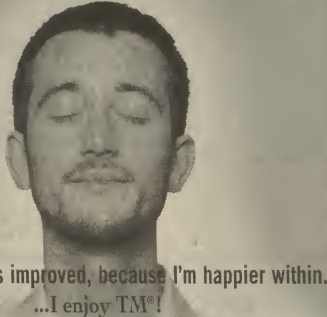
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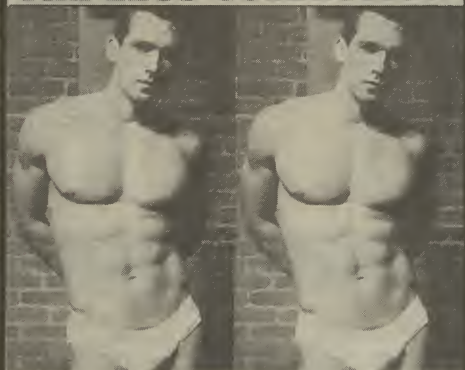
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Bye-bye, bi?

by Libby Post

O kay, I admit it. When I saw the "Gay, Straight or Lying? Bisexuality Revisited" headline in the *New York Times*, my die-hard "how-could-a-woman-who-has-experienced-the-wonder-of-making-love-with-another-woman-ever-go-back-to-men" dyke heart skipped a beat.

But then, seconds later, liberal guilt set in and I read the article.

The reporter, Benedict Carey, writes about a new joint study from Northwestern University and Toronto's Center for Addiction and Mental Health that "casts doubt on whether true bisexuality exists, at least in men." Described as "the largest of several small reports" (are the researchers having a "size" problem here?), the study used a tiny test group of 101 young adult men whose sexual identity roughly broke down in thirds — 33 said they were bi, 30 said they were straight, and 38 said they were gay.

A penile plethysmograph, also known as a PPG in the sex research world, was used to measure "genital arousal patterns in response to sexual images of men and women." The article didn't detail how the PPG was attached — I'll leave that to your active imaginations. What they found, however, was that, as expected, the straight guys got it up for the images of women, and the gay guys did the same for men. The unexpected finding was that three-quarters of the self-identified bi guys responded only to the images of men. And from these results the conclusion was made that bisexuality, at least in men, does not really exist.

Now, the response to the article, the headline in particular, has been vicious. The *Times* has been flooded with letters to the editor ranging from scientific to sarcastic.

Stanford biology professor Joan Roughgarden, Ph.D. wrote, "In the 300 or more known vertebrate species with natural homosexuality, all combine heterosexual with homosexual relations. Humans are not likely to differ in this regard... The data in the article

show that 20 percent of the pool having same-sex relations do identify as bisexual. These people surely aren't all lying. Instead, psychologists should add a fourth possibility to their list: namely, that they are wrong."

Catherine Gaffney from that city of brotherly love, Philadelphia, wrote, "If our sexual preference were best detected by who [sic] we look at in pornography, wouldn't pretty much everyone be attracted to mildly unattractive people who live on the West Coast, and lack acting talent?" (I wonder if there will be an organized response from adult filmmakers to this one.)

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force have both galvanized their forces. GLAAD found the headline to be sensationalistic and derogatory. They even asked the *Times* to

change the header on their online edition. The answer was no. GLAAD wants folks to write more letters to the editor.

NGLTF's Matt Foreman was "stunned that the *New York Times* science section would carry such a shoddy, sensationalistic, and downright insulting story" that equates sexual orientation with sexual arousal. The article "defames the truth in the lives and loves of millions of bisexual men. The *Times* should be ashamed." A plethora of information regarding bisexuality, the study's inaccuracies, and suggested action can be found at www.nglft.org.

While the die-hard dyke heart says one thing, the rational thought process that inhibits my brain suggests that, absent all the sex-role stereotyping that permeates our society, we'd probably break down on the following scale — 10 percent of us would be either exclusively hetero or homo (that



Christine Smith

includes us lesbians), and the rest of us would revel in sexual fluidity.

Clearly, our culture is anything but devoid of sex-role stereotypes and the presumption of heterosexism, so this isn't likely to happen. But the question that really concerns me is not whether bisexuality exists but why there isn't a stronger, independent bisexual movement with political clout of its own. The messages of bisexuals and transfolks can get lost and overlooked when we're all included under the ubiquitous LGBT political umbrella.

I understand that while some of the issues that bisexuals face are the same for lesbians and gays, some are different. I understand that the transgender community must grapple with both sexual and gender orientation. But I also understand political reality and how too many messages crowd each other out.

Just look at John Kerry's failed bid for president. With a smorgasbord of "messages," his campaign never had a clear and coherent one. What happened? He lost.

While each of our singular communities has its own organizations, perhaps those of us with greater resources can help those who don't. It is vital to work in coalition when the issue calls for it and to maintain our singular identities. Wouldn't it be more effective if each of us — the lesbian and gay community, the bisexual community, and the transgender community — had our own strong political identity, so that when we do work together we truly are greater than the sum of our parts?

If this were the case, the *Times* might never have equated bisexuality with lying. ▼

Street fairs

◀ page 5

don't understand," countered Pablo Heising, executive director of the Castro and Haight Street fairs. "They think we're liquor-driven. We are not."

Darryl Flick, executive director of Folsom Street Events, was not at the meeting. Reached this week, however, he said that banning alcohol at his fairs — Folsom Street and Up Your Alley — would mean profits would go to local bars in the vicinity of the fairs, which might not turn over a portion of their profits.

"We'd go from a street fair to crickets chirping," said Flick. "The economic impact would be disastrous."

The sponsoring beer companies help draw Folsom Street Fair attendees from 50 states and seven foreign countries who spend on average \$27.2 million in tax revenue, according to an FSE survey several years ago, Flick said.

As for opening the FSE books, Flick said as a nonprofit, the group already files IRS forms.

"It's already a matter of public record," said Flick. "It's not something they have to ask for," although he added, "I'm happy to provide tons of information."

Flick encouraged the budget committee to do "their homework about how much money we bring in. If not, the visitors bureau would be happy to oblige them on that."

Not exactly. The Convention and Visitors Bureau does not have the funds or ability to gather detailed survey or research information specific to street fair tax revenue, said Dan Goldes, vice president of member and community relations.

But, a 2004 survey of hotel guests showed that 9.4 percent visited the Castro and 15.4 percent visited South of Market, although Goldes cautioned that figure might include visits to museums, not necessarily leather bars.

At last week's meeting, Super-

visor Bevan Dufty advocated a "stakeholder" process for civilian policing, with the department, neighborhood, and fair leaders coming together.

"The department could do this in short order," said Dufty. "It would make me feel more comfortable."

Fair promoters might feel intimidated objecting to SFPD dictates out of concern for future safety issues where the police might not step in, suggested Dufty.

"People are fearful of taking on [the police] on an individual basis, that they'll have problems later on," said Dufty.

Tacchini said that before establishing policing levels for a street fair, a district station's event coordinator questions fair promoters on expected attendance, liquor variety and number of vendors, and musical entertainment genres and expressed that they should interpret the lack of safety problems so far, not as an argument for reducing police resources, but that, "our safety goals have been met." ▼

Hasta la vista, special election?

by Bill Barnes

This November's statewide special election isn't shaping up so well for Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger**. First, the governor's folks withdrew their "pension reform" proposal when it became clear that Californians wouldn't support a poorly written initiative that would take death benefits away from surviving partners of firefighters and police officers.



Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

Then Attorney General **Bill Lockyer** — who actually voted for Schwarzenegger and bragged about it — finally did something useful and got the governor's re-districting measure, known as Proposition 77, kicked off the ballot because the campaign used the wrong language in signature gathering.

The next day, energy companies succeeded in kicking Proposition 80, the energy re-regulation measure off the ballot, meaning that millions in energy company profits won't be spent in the special election, presumably on behalf of the governor's agenda. Now, Schwarzenegger's folks have floated the idea of canceling the whole thing altogether, though the governor said Monday afternoon that the election is still on.

Canceling the election, however, would require two-thirds of the legislature to vote for it. Democratic leaders — especially Assembly Speaker **Fabian Nunez** (D-Los Angeles) — sense victory and are talking about blocking the governor's potential effort to call off the election. Many of these folks are the same ones who called on the governor not to hold the election in the first place. Local governments across California have already said they have better priorities for their local funds than holding an unnecessary election. Seems to me if the governor wants to cancel the election, Democrats should declare victory. It's time to move California forward.

Sandoval and Ramos: At it again

On the local front, Treasurer **Jose Cisneros** and Assessor **Phil Ting**, both appointed by Mayor **Gavin Newsom**, have drawn noteworthy challengers. As I mentioned last week, Ting is set to square off against Supervisor **Gerardo Sandoval**, accountant **Ron Chun**, and loan agent **Vicki Leidner**, a Green Party member.

Now, San Francisco City College Trustee **Julio Ramos** has tossed his hat in the ring against

Cisneros. Unlike the assessor's race, which is still in flux, the treasurer's race seems like a good bet for Cisneros. As an appointed incumbent running without a challenger for months, Cisneros raised money and lined up a broad range of progressive LGBT support, including state Senator **Carole Migden** (D-San Francisco), Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco), Supervisor **Tom Amiano**, Democratic Central Committee member **David Campos**, former Milk Club President **Debra Walker** and community members like **Thom Lynch** and **Rick Galbreath**.

This isn't the first time that law school classmates Ramos and Sandoval have developed interesting electoral strategies, and it probably won't be the last. Sandoval and Ramos were swept into office in 2000 on the independent, anybody-but-**Willie Brown** platform and by all objective measures, haven't made many waves.

With the exception of a couple of controversial comments, his time as budget chair and during a recent campaign-related lawsuit, Sandoval hasn't been a media darling. Ramos is generally considered an independent voice on the college board, but his relations with college board colleagues are rocky at best — four of his six colleagues have already endorsed Cisneros for treasurer. Yet both Sandoval and Ramos have played the insider political game for a while and it's worth noting.

During the state legislative re-districting right after the 2000 census, lines for legislative districts had to be redrawn for population adjustment. Much was made of the changes in state Senate lines that split the Castro in half. Many community activists expressed concern, but eventually the lines did put much of the Castro and Noe Valley into the district represented by state Senator **Jackie Speier** (D-Hillsborough/San Francisco). The district, which stretches south through San Mateo County, will next likely be represented by Assemblyman **Leland Yee** (D-San Francisco) or former San Mateo County Supervisor **Mike Nevin**. For all of the community concern, it seems to have made the district more liberal and pro-LGBT; the other Senate district, which stretches north to Marin, is represented by state Senator **Carole Migden**.

While the Senate district changed, the 12th and 13th Assembly districts functionally remained the same, with an east side district (Leno) and a west side district (Yee). Sandoval and Ramos, however, forwarded a different plan. Their proposal would have split the city north and south, essentially creating a district where a Chinese American would have a good chance in the city's northern neighborhoods, linking Chinatown and the Richmond. The southern neighborhoods would combine the Mission and the Excelsior and link them to Bayview/Hunters Point and other communities of color. The thinking went that a Latino would have a good shot in that district.

Another plan would have

linked African Americans in Bayview/Hunters Point, Potrero Hill, the Tenderloin and Western Addition with folks in Oakland. It kind of looked like the BART district that's now in place.

Fortunately for progressives and the LGBT community, both proposals were blocked by folks in Sacramento, protecting a progressive east side district with a high concentration of LGBT voters. Interestingly, after they lost the fight, Ramos's name was floated in 2004 against Leno. Ramos eventually went on to run on the west side for Democratic County Central Committee, a position to which he was not elected.

Since these state hijinks were unsuccessful, we now have Sandoval and Ramos running in these local races, where observers say Sandoval has a strong chance and Ramos can't be

written off. It shows persistence pays in San Francisco politics.

Let the sunshine in

As readers may or may not know, I don't write for the *Bay Area Reporter* as a full time reporter, I only write this column once a week. Recently, a photograph on **Janet Reilly's** Assembly campaign Web site showed me talking with the 12th Assembly District candidate at a training sponsored by the San Francisco Democratic Party, which caused some outlandish responses. My favorite was the e-mail that I had signed up to run her field operations.

I haven't endorsed in the 12th AD race, and was at the training in my official capacity as a county committee member, not to report on either the training or the 12th AD race. Unlike my talented and ubiquitous predecessor, I'll let the paper endorse candidates, and not include them in the column.

While I haven't signed up to work as a paid lobbyist or campaign consultant, I have volunteered on a couple of campaigns and advocated without compensation at the Board of Supervisors. Specifically, I am listed as a contact for the local ballot measure to limit handgun possession in San Francisco, and fought to secure more AIDS funding during the budget cycle, where \$4 million more was added back from the mayor's initial proposal. When I wrote about some of **Michael Petrelis's** recent comments at a HIV Health Services Planning Council meeting, he fired off an e-mail to a number of recipients, including Senator **Tom Coburn's** (D-Okla-homa) staff, indicating that I hadn't been forthcoming about that advocacy.

I thought it helpful for readers to know about these volunteer activities. I'll let you know in the future about any others, or engagements that are compensated. You're always welcome to let me know your thoughts via e-mail.

Have a good week. ▼

Bill Barnes is an elected member of the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee. His e-mail is billbarnesf@hotmail.com.

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Who was Dr. James 'Miranda' Barry?

by Liz Highleyman

July 1865 (140 years ago this month): Military surgeon Dr. James "Miranda" Barry dies in London, England.

Dr. James Barry was a celebrated military surgeon and medical reformer whose sex and gender identity were the subject of much speculation both during his life and after his death. To this day, it is not known whether Barry was a transgender man, a person with an intersex condition, or a woman who cross-dressed in order to follow her dreams.

Barry is thought to have been born around 1795, but little is known about the exact circumstances of his birth and early life. Even his original name is uncertain; some researchers believe it was Miranda Stuart or Margaret Bulkley. Barry is said to have been raised by a single mother and supported by a circle of bohemians and radicals who were friends of his uncle, the Irish painter James Barry. Among them were the Earl of Buchan (David Erskine), an early proponent of women's rights, and the Venezuelan revolutionary General Francisco de Miranda, who encouraged Barry to dress as a boy and enroll at the University of Edinburgh Medical School as a young teenager.

Barry graduated in 1812; today, he is regarded by many as

the first woman ever to have received a university medical degree. He then did an apprenticeship in London with renowned physician Sir Astley Cooper. Despite having a delicate physique and being barely 5 feet tall, Barry joined the British Army around 1813 as a hospital assistant. He served in several overseas posts, arriving in Cape Town, South Africa (then a British colony), around 1816. Though he often bucked his superiors as he sought to improve local health conditions, he quickly rose through the ranks and was named medical inspector. He became known for his talent as a surgeon, and is credited with performing the first successful Cesarean section using modern Western techniques.

With his delicate features, red-dyed hair, flamboyant outfits, and high-heeled shoes, Barry developed a reputation as a dandy. Writer Charles Dickens once described him as "unique in appearance and eccentric in manner," while another contemporary said he was "completely devoid of all the outward signs of manly virility." Among his peculiar habits, it was noted that Barry would only undress in complete privacy. He also became known for his short temper and lack of diplomacy. While his quarrelsome manner frequently got him into trouble, Barry usually escaped serious consequences due to his medical skills and his friendships with higher-



Dr. James "Miranda" Barry

ups.

Although flirtatious with the ladies, Barry was rumored to be homosexual, and he fought at least one duel to defend his honor. Around 1820, Barry entered into a close relationship – and quite likely a love affair – with Cape Town Governor Lord Charles Somerset. The two were accused of sodomy, after which the governor was recalled to London and the young doctor temporarily left the cape for parts unknown – some say to conceal a pregnancy,

although another theory holds that Barry lived briefly as a woman with Somerset in Britain.

Barry resurfaced in South Africa, where he remained until 1828. He then went on to serve in several island posts, including Mauritius, Jamaica, St. Helena, the West Indies, Malta, and Corfu. It is rumored that once, while Barry was suffering from yellow fever, a doctor discovered his birth sex, but Barry swore him to secrecy.

In 1857, Barry – by now promoted to inspector general of army hospitals – was posted to Canada, a move he disliked due to the cold climate. Two years later, after a bout of influenza, he was pressured into retirement and returned to London, accompanied as usual by his Jamaican manservant and a poodle named Psyche.

Barry died in London during a dysentery epidemic in July 1865. Although he had asked to be "buried in his bed sheets without further inspection," a nurse or maid preparing the body claimed Barry was a woman and had stretch marks indicating a past pregnancy. His doctor, however, said he thought Barry might be "an imperfectly developed man."

After his death, Barry's sex continued to provoke controversy. An article in the August 26, 1865 *Medical Times and Gazette* suggested it had been obvious all along that Barry was a woman: "the physique, absence of hair, the voice, all pointed in one way, and the petulance of temper, the unreasoning impulsiveness, the fondness for pets were in the same direction."

Countered a respondent, "There can be no doubt among those who knew him that his real physical condition was that of a male in whom sexual development had been arrested about the sixth month of fetal life." And when the debate was revisited in 1881 in the British medical journal *The Lancet*, an old school friend of Barry's said he never had "the slightest suspicion of her sex."

More than a century later, Barry's "real" sex remains a mystery. But, asks Harvard literature professor Marjorie Garber, "If a person lives his or her life consistently under a gender identity different from that revealed by anatomical inspection after death, what is the force of that 'reality'?" ▼

Liz Highleyman is a freelance writer and editor who has written widely on health, sexuality, and politics. She can be reached at this publication or at PastOut@qsyndicate.com.

Suggested reading

Holmes, Rachel. 2003. *Scanty Particulars: The Scandalous Life and Astonishing Secret of Queen Victoria's Most Eminent Military Doctor* (Random House).

Rose, June. 1977. *The Perfect Gentleman: The Remarkable Life of Dr. James Miranda Barry* (Hutchinson)

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CDA lawsuit

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Following a separate high court decision in May 2002 that the application of local community standards to the Internet could allow the most puritanical communities to impose their standards on the entire country, Nitke and NCSF sought an injunction preventing enforcement of the obscenity provision.

"It isn't right for members of a small, rural town to be able to determine the community standards of cities like New York or San Francisco," said NCSF spokeswoman Susan Wright.

In March 2003, a three-judge panel for the Southern District of New York ruled that the plaintiffs must be given an opportunity to prove that the provision is vague and overly broad and bans speech that should be protected; the lawsuit was heard last October.

Several queer, civil libertarian, and sex education groups filed amicus briefs supporting the plaintiffs, including the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the Triangle Foundation, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, and the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality.

"The CDA statute could deprive artists and educators of one of the last venues we have for displaying, discussing, and selling sexually frank material," Nitke, a faculty member at New York's School of Visual Arts, told the *Bay Area Reporter* at the time. "I live in fear of prosecution because my photographs could be deemed obscene in some communities."

In this week's ruling, the same New York court declared that while Nitke's fear that she could be prosecuted is "actual and well-founded" and "based on a reasonable interpretation of the CDA,"



Barbara Nitke

the plaintiffs provided an "insufficient basis upon which to make a finding as to the total amount of speech that is protected in some communities but that is prohibited by the CDA because it is obscene in other communities."

"We are disappointed that the court did not act on the uncontradicted evidence we presented that artists and citizens who are sexual minorities are disproportionately censored by the government's ability to pick its own forum and standard for obscenity cases," said plaintiffs' attorney John Wierenius. "The government brings obscenity cases where it knows it can get convictions."

"I am stunned that they ruled against us," Nitke told the B.A.R. "They noted that we had proved that I am at risk of an unfair obscenity charge – along with thousands of other websites which feature sexual education, art, and information – but they still ruled in favor of the government."

Nitke and the NCSF are currently preparing an appeal, which they expect to file in the coming weeks. ▼

Study: Circumcision reduces risk of HIV

by Bob Roehr

The first randomized controlled trial of circumcision in adult males has found that the procedure reduces female-to-male transmission of HIV by about two-thirds. Presumably, all of the participants were heterosexual and did not engage in anal sex.

The trial was conducted by French and South African researchers in an urban setting in South Africa. It was stopped early because the results were so dramatic.

The study enrolled 3,035 HIV-negative sexually active males who wanted to be circumcised. They were randomized, half immediately receiving circumcision, while the

others would receive the procedure at the end of the trial, lead researcher Bertrand Auvert told the International AIDS Society conference in Rio de Janeiro on July 26.

The region has a high rate of HIV, with 31.6 percent of pregnant women testing positive for the virus. Over the course of the 21 months of the trial, 18 circumcised and 51 uncircumcised participants became infected with HIV. The difference was so dramatic that an independent review board stopped the trial early, and all of the participants were given the option of immediately being circumcised.

Since 1986, more than 30 scientific papers have been published that suggested a protective effect for circumcision. But all have left

questions as to whether other social customs and rather than the physical circumcision practices might be contributing to the protective effect. That ambiguity led to this randomized controlled clinical trial, which is the "gold standard" of biomedical research.

Auvert said a leading medical explanation for the protective effect is that circumcision removes the foreskin, which contains cells that are particularly vulnerable to HIV. It also changes physical characteristics of the head of the penis from that of a mucosal membrane, which the virus can easily enter, to a harder "keratinized" surface that is more difficult to penetrate.

The procedure of circumcision carries its own risks of pain and infection. Some 4 percent of those

in the trial experienced those side effects, though none were considered serious. There is concern that traditional healers and untrained health workers might increasingly perform circumcisions, resulting in botched procedures, increased rates of infection, and greater risk to the patients.

Catherine Hankins, chief scientific adviser with UNAIDS, said that although the results of the trial are promising, "More research is needed to confirm the reproducibility of the finds of this trial and whether or not the results have more general application." Only then should agencies consider adding circumcision to prevention options.

Parallel trials currently under way in Uganda and Kenya, and

sponsored by the National Institutes of Health in collaboration with local researchers, should confirm or call into question the results of this trial. That information is likely to become available next year.

Hankins also is concerned that men who become circumcised might feel that they are protected from becoming infected with HIV and therefore do not need to use condoms. Ironically, that would contribute even more to new HIV infections.

Helene Gayle, co-chair of the conference and an officer of the Gates Foundation, said that circumcision is not a "magic bullet." We need a tool kit of prevention strategies used in combination to help reduce the spread of HIV. ▼

TG clinic

◀ page 2

our patients," said Mary Monihan, RN. "These people have gone through a lot of difficulties in their lives to live as the person they know they are, and we certainly want to thank them. Everything we learned, we learned through them."

Waddell's transgender clinic operates on an informed consent model with a protocol for administering hormones that includes blood work, a physical exam, and meetings with mental health counselors to assess risk factors and allow the patients "to really explore how transition is going to

affect their relationships, their work, the people in their community," said Monihan.

The clinic has about 600 active patients and has seen between 1,500 and 1,800 people throughout its first decade, she said. The majority of the patients are male-to-female, although a growing number of female-to-male clients have been using the clinic in recent years. For the most part, Waddell patients are not represented in high-visibility transgender events, such as the Tranny March, said Freeman, but rather, are dealing with daily risks that come with unemployment, homelessness, and other hardships.

"What we're most concerned about are issues like getting the

word out for people not to go to 'pumping parties,'" he said, referencing the recent death of a San Diego woman who received illegal silicone injections along with nine other transgender women at a private house party last month.

Pumping parties usually involve out-of-towners without medical licenses who arrange to deliver silicone injections to MTFs who wish to feminize their appearance.

"We have seen so many disasters from these kinds of procedures — silicone in the cheeks that came out through the mouth, buttocks that became infected and then fell into the leg and caused inflammation. These are not implants, it's a direct injection of some substance,

which could be kitchen oil or car wax," said Freeman, adding that a Waddell patient lost her life after a pumping party several years ago, and that the clinic sees about one person a month who is dealing with infections, discolorations, inflammations, or migrations from such procedures.

But the Waddell staff members have also witnessed many positive events experienced by their patients. They have, for instance, been privy to the relationships transgender people sometimes form that have led to the advent of pregnant gay men.

"Two of our patients, both with full beards, were the parents in the delivery room when one of them was giving birth," said Free-

man, noting that the clinic has not seen fertility issues in transgender men who stop taking testosterone. "I would have loved to have seen the faces of the nurses in that situation. But good; get used to it."

Additionally, said Freeman, getting transgender people involved in their own healthcare and making them aware of the risks associated with hormones means that more transgender people are becoming healthier.

"I can't tell you how many of our MTF patients have quit smoking because cigarettes affect estrogen levels," said Freeman, who estimates that 80 percent have kicked the habit. "I can't tell you how many FTM patients have lost

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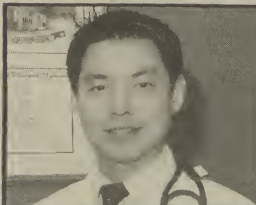
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Gay men in the Castro acknowledge others, say 'hi'

by Zak Szymanski

Like most sunny days in San Francisco's gay Castro District, last Saturday, July 23 saw throngs of tourists and locals walking along the sidewalk, shoppers checking out the newest hip clothing, and socialites taking advantage of patio seating at local bars and cafes. Yet several yards away, at Harvey Milk Plaza, there was a less familiar sight: a group of about 50 gay men of various ages, races, and sizes had convened, and all the men appeared to be ... talking.

"None of these guys knew each other before, and now look at them," said Joe Imbriani, armed with a stack of business cards advertising the San Francisco Gay Men's Community Initiative, a unique effort that advocates being friendly in a community often believed to be exclusionary and unwelcoming. Many SFGMCI members participate in the group's "Wilde Chats," a discussion group held every Saturday, and have been drawn to the group through neighborhood outings like these, a visibility and outreach event that aimed to let others know they are not alone.

Imbriani addressed the group before leading the walk through the crowds. The idea was to stay together and distribute the cards — each with a welcoming message — to passersby, particularly those perceived to be a part of the gay community.

"We know that many gay men feel invisible and many say that the most hostility they have encountered has come from their own community," said Imbriani as he divided stacks of cards among group members. "There are 65,000 gay men in San Francisco and a lot of them don't feel like they belong. A lot of them will put themselves in harm's way. When guys feel like they belong, they have a tendency to take better care of themselves. And we are showing them that gay men can take care of each other."

The "Say Hi to a Gay Guy" event, said Imbriani, was a way to let gay men know that they were noticed — and not just for sex, but for their friendship possibilities.

"I don't want your number," said one of the cards, "I just want to say Hi!"

Friendship is the key to building community, said SFGMCI member Mark Rhoades, adding that without that foundation, issues like practicing safer sex and building self-esteem cannot be addressed.

"There's this idea that gay people can come out to San Francisco and be welcomed," said Rhoades. "The worst thing is to come out here and feel isolated. It's a crime. We need to get away from cliques, and share each other's friends."

SFGMCI was developed as a result of a research project through the HIV prevention branch of the San Francisco Department of Public Health in 2003, said Imbriani, himself a



Volunteers with the Gay Men's Community Initiative walked the streets of the Castro last Saturday, and passed out cards that said "hi."

DPH employee, but it has remained an independent community-led project that is entirely volunteer-driven with no outside funding.

"In an effort to address the overall health needs of the community, we interviewed hundreds of guys in the neighborhood to find out what it was like to be a gay man. The majority told us there was not such a great feeling of community here, that they didn't feel comfortable walking into a gay bar, and that gay men were doing this to

Sometimes recipients seemed confused. Other times they rolled their eyes. More often than not, they smiled as they read the cards, even if they seemed skeptical that nobody was trying to sell or solicit something.

"This is great," remarked Parlanti as his group rounded 18th Street. "I would never just go up and talk to anybody."

A group of women walked by and Patrick Vilhena handed them each a "hello" card. They smiled; one of them remarked, "How cool!"

Targeting women was just as important, said Vilhena, because of the gay community's reputation as unwelcoming to other minorities.

"I give the cards to everybody," said Vilhena. "This neighborhood has been sexist for way too long. Sexist, racist, you name it."

SFGMCI member Jefferson McCarley encountered a wide range of reactions as he handed out his cards. One man argued with him that people were "friendly enough already," and said he thought the effort was "a little weird." Another man said he really appreciated the effort and that he was going to pass the card on to someone else.

As the walk headed back up Castro Street, two men who received cards joined the group, talking and laughing with others on their way to eat lunch. "Bye!" they yelled to their new acquaintances as they entered a restaurant.

At the end of the walk, the group reconvened on Market Street for some more words of encouragement.

"You just did community building," Imbriani announced, adding that while nothing could be expected to happen overnight, every small step counts for something. In the 50-minute walk through the neighborhood, 846 cards were distributed. Imbriani said that usually after events like these, his inbox is filled with e-mails from people who received cards and want more information about the group, which represents a broad cross-section of gay scenes: from HIV/AIDS nonprofits to recovery circles to politics.

"I love this group," said Joe Caruso, who works in San Fran-

I DON'T WANT YOUR NUMBER.

I just want to say "Hi!"
(PASS IT ON)

each other," said Imbriani. "We decided to take it from there and ask them, 'What do we do about it?'"

Community members themselves suggested the discussion forums now hosted by SFGMCI, and the community has remained in control of the project's direction ever since, he said, developing not just the larger Wilde Chats for all gay men, but adding culturally-specific groups for seniors, Latinos, black gay men, and youth, so that specific groups could identify their own needs in order to come together with others to work on issues for the community as a whole.

Frank Parlanti, who got involved with the group about a month ago, said he enjoys its concept and its diversity.

"It's not very often people from their 20s to their 70s get together," said Parlanti, who described the group's chats as personal, moderated discussions with room for intellectual analysis and reflection.

A friendly walk

Armed with friendliness, the group started out down Castro Street. The interactions were brisk, but the reactions were instantane-

"Hello!" said members as they offered their cards to individuals, couples, and small clusters of friends. "Have a great day!"

NATIONAL NEWS

Boy Scout Jamboree to end?

by Bob Roehr

The throngs of khaki-clad Boy Scouts who descend on Washington, D.C. before and after the National Scout Jamboree, like quadrennial cicadas, may be experiencing their last hurrah. A federal judge has barred the Pentagon from spending millions of dollars to underwrite the event.

While this year's Jamboree is taking place on a military base, it got off to a tragic start Monday afternoon when four adult Scout leaders from Alaska died in an electrical accident while setting up camp. The *Washington Post* reported that the accident apparently occurred when a pole from a tent they were setting up struck an overhead power line. Three others, a Scout leader and two contract workers, were injured in the accident and transported to nearby hospitals. No Boy Scouts were injured.

The Boy Scouts of America won the right to discriminate against gays in the landmark 2000 decision of *BSA v. Dale*. The U.S. Supreme Court agreed with the Scouts that it was in fact a private organization with a strong religious component. Churches hold some 63 percent of troop charters. Hence, BSA could interpret the "morally straight" clause of the scout oath as grounds for excluding gays.

The oath also contains the phrase "duty to God," which the Scouts have used as grounds for excluding atheists and agnostics from the organization.

While private organizations may in some instances discriminate, government agencies cannot; nor can they support private organizations that discriminate. The issue has continued to play out in several locations, where local police and fire departments have ended their association with the Scouts. In San Diego the city declined to renew a lease with the Boy Scouts for use of city park land.

The crown jewel of American scouting is the National Scout Jamboree, a huge gathering held every four years. It used to move around the country but eventually the size and cost became pro-



Boy Scouts converge on Washington, D.C. last weekend, just prior to the start of the Jamboree at a nearby Army base.

hibitive and since 1981 it has been held at Fort A.P. Hill, an Army base between Washington, D.C. and Richmond, Virginia.

More than 40,000 boys and adult leaders attend events in the tent city erected on the base. The Pentagon spent more than \$8 million in support of the last Jamboree, much of it in the form of services provided by soldiers.

The question raised before a federal judge in Chicago was whether the Pentagon's support of the Jamboree, as well as that of National Guard units throughout the year, was a violation of what is known as the "establishment clause" of the First Amendment. It also is known as the separation of church and state.

In March of this year, Judge Blanche Manning ruled that the Scouts are a religious group for purposes of establishment clause analysis. Applying a standard articulated in a Supreme Court decision written by Justice Clarence Thomas that allows the government to support religious groups if it offers that same support to all groups, she found that in fact the Scouts received special treatment, as mandated by Congress, that is not offered to others. That is unconstitutional.

Manning ruled that the Pentagon must cease such support. The decision also applied to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which had sup-

ported the Scouts through the Community Development Block Grants program.

The judge finalized her ruling on July 7 by imposing an injunction on those organizations spending further funds on the Scouts, but she stayed the injunction pending appeal, so that the Jamboree could be held July 25 to August 3.

The Scouts have said that they likely could not afford to stage the Jamboree at another location without the large government subsidy. ▼

Frist speech a dud

by Matthew S. Bajko

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tennessee) dodged reporters' questions on two of President Bush's nominees for top posts during a speech about healthcare Monday, July 25 in San Francisco before the Commonwealth Club. Asked by the event moderator if he will run for president himself, Frist simply replied, "Maybe."

Frist scurried out of the Marriott on Fourth Street refusing to answer questions about both John Roberts's nomination to the United States Supreme Court and John Bolton's fate as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. With dozens of empty seats in the room, Frist's appearance failed to draw the same crowd as Secretary



Senator Bill Frist

of State Condoleezza Rice's May 27 speech, which filled Davies Symphony Hall. Nor did his visit bring out any demonstrators in a city famous for its ability to mo-

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Pendulum

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ly handicap accessible, including regrading the back patio and lowering the bar's entrance to street level. Inside, workers will move the actual bar from the middle to the right side of the building and install a new dance floor. MacNeil said he wants to turn the Pendulum from a dive into a lounge-type club.

"It will be well worth it, that place was in bad need of a face lift," said MacNeil, who declined to disclose the cost of the construction due to the lawsuit. "I want it to be a cool, jazzy feel to the atmosphere. There will be a lot of places for people to sit and hang out."

With the city permits good until late October, MacNeil said he is hopeful work on the bar will be completed as quickly as possible.

"It's 115 days is what the contractor said it will take. By then it will have transferred into my name; I will own it. It will be costing me a lot of money for every day it is closed so I want it done as fast as possible," he said.

As for the community's reaction, MacNeil said, "I am a little surprised everybody is so angry. I hope they give me a chance. I have confidence in the long run we will make everyone very happy."

Nighttime protest

The closure of the Pendulum and the decision to lay off the bar's staff sparked a nighttime protest in front of the bar Thursday, July 21 attended by about 50 people, including Supervisor Chris Daly who called Natali "not



Former Pendulum manager Berin Nakamura, left, and bartender Enrique Jimenez, in happier times. Jimenez is suing Nakamura and Les Natali.

only a racist, but an asshole." After denouncing Natali for closing the bar, about 25 people then proceeded to chant in front of Badlands, calling on both Mayor Gavin Newsom and Supervisor Bevan Dufty to take action against Natali.

"It is bullshit that the mayor is not here as pissed off as we are. It is bullshit that Bevan is not here," said George Smith, co-chair of Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action. "These city officials come down to our shops and ask for our support and just as fast abandon us. It is like being raped in front of the entire city and no one is coming to help."

"This is a violation of the norms and values of this community. It makes it so much more difficult to come together as a community," added John Newsome, an organizer of the community group And Castro For All, which has held weekly Saturday night pickets outside Badlands. "Mr. Natali has not been held accountable by the city. We are disappointed at not seeing the kind of support we would expect to see. It is time to put an end to Mr. Natali's free reign of terror."

While he called for reopening the Pendulum "as quickly as possible," Newsome added that the Badlands "and Mr. Natali should be removed from this community."

Calvin Gipson, an activist within the city's LGBT African American community who has expressed concern about Natali's owning the Pendulum, criticized his decision to shut it down.

"I am very troubled by the fact Les Natali is chasing black people out of the Castro. Black people have come to this place to celebrate as proud LGBT black people. For Les to take this away from us and do it in such a cold, evil fashion, and to have left his employees without an income, is wrong," said Gipson. "I challenge our city leaders to do something about it."

Ex-employees speak out

Missing from the lineup of speakers were Pendulum employees. Several former employees contacted by the B.A.R. said they were at home, watching the protest on local news station KRON 4, and took issue with the comments of the protesters. Margarita Samra, 48, a gay woman who worked as a bartender at the Pendulum for four years, said she "wanted to put my fist through the screen" when watching the news report and hearing Gipson's remarks.

"None of what he said is true. He is trying to manufacture facts that support his agenda as opposed to getting the real information. The truth is we all knew it was coming. We were pretty much

told officially in February we were going to be closing for renovations; they just didn't know when," said Samra, who said she received a severance package "I am quite happy with" and plans to go on vacation.

Berin Nakamura, the Pendulum's general manager for the last eight years, said he in fact has been offered an assistant manager position at Badlands but is taking a month off first. Nakamura, 35, who is half Japanese and gay, said all the bar's staff knew their employment would come to an end as soon as the bar was closed. What came as a surprise, he said, was Natali's selling the bar to MacNeil.

"It is not at all retaliation. He sold the bar, he is done," said Nakamura, who plans to visit his family in Hawaii. "We closed everything down and the new owner took over. He is starting the renovation himself. He told everyone to reapply and we would get the first opportunity to come back and work there again."

Considering how outdated and rundown the Pendulum had become, said Nakamura, the community should be celebrating the bar's renovation, and hopefully, rebirth.

"The Pendulum has served the community for 35 years but the time has come where it needs to be renovated and this is a good thing. We appreciate all the patronage and loyalty of support over the years and we do hope these people come back," he said. "All of this was in place before we even knew Les would be vindicated of these charges and the state agency came back with their findings. The timing was just coincidence."

Samra said it angers her to see those involved with the Badlands case convolute that issue with Natali's purchase of the Pendulum. She said last week's protest had nothing to do with her or her fellow staffers and more to do with the animosity the activists have toward Natali.

"Our bar had nothing to do with it. I don't know Les well enough for me to make any kind of comment about him personally. I had very little interaction with him the entire time he owned the bar," she said. "It is more personal now. It is more about power and politics than what the initial charges were a year ago. I can assure you a high percentage of the people who initiated all that stuff and now say he can't close the Pendulum are basically saying 'We don't want to come to the Pendulum but you can't close it.' You think one of them gives a real rat's patooty about us? How all that affected our life and our income?"

As soon as Natali bought the bar, Samra said business plummeted.

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Third Badlands probe heats up

by Matthew S. Bajko

A third probe into allegations of racism at a Castro bar heated up last week, with the executive director of a state agency meeting with city officials to discuss their findings in the case. A city panel also will take public comment next week.

Suzanne Ambrose, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's appointee to head the state Department of Fair Employment and Housing, drove down from Sacramento with her deputy director on Friday, July 22 to meet with staff at the city's Human Rights Commission. The meeting covered the HRC's finding that bar owner Les Natali discriminated against patrons and employees based on race at his bar, San Francisco Badlands.

"It was meant for information gathering, to get a copy of the HRC's report and talk about the commission's findings," said Regina Brown, deputy director of communications and legislation at the state agency, who also attended the meeting.

Citing the fact her department has an ongoing investigation into the matter, Brown declined to discuss specifics about the case. Though she did disclose that in November 2004 DFEH received numerous complaints of discrimination at Natali's bar.

"The department has one year to investigate from the last act alleged," said Brown. "The earliest I can find is November 2004. It could be earlier."

Ambrose's agency is the third to launch an investigation into allegations of discriminatory practices at Badlands. The city's Entertainment Commission will also begin its review of the matter when it takes public comment and considers whether to take disciplinary action against Natali at its August 2 meeting. The Entertainment Commission can suspend or revoke the permits for Badlands that allows the bar to play music and have dancing. Tuesday's discussion is not listed as an action item on the agenda, meaning no vote can be taken by commissioners.

After a 10-month investigation, the HRC issued its staff report on April 26 concluding Natali used



Attorney Julius Turman

several practices, including a no-bag policy and asking for two forms of identification, to deny African Americans entry to his bar.

On July 14 the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control concluded its yearlong undercover investigation into the accusations against Natali, finding there was insufficient evidence to revoke his liquor license. Natali, who has denied the charges against him and is appealing the HRC's findings, declared the ABC's decision "vindication."

Natali's attorney, Steve Goldstein, said he is confident that DFEH will come to the same conclusions as the ABC did of his client. While he was unaware of Ambrose's visit last week, Goldstein said he remains confident that Natali will be cleared of all charges against him.

"No. I am not concerned. The charges against Mr. Natali are baseless," said Goldstein of the latest step in DFEH's investigation. "They are based on flimsy evidence and hearsay and trivial and isolated, perceived problems."

'Not out of the woods'

However, Julius Turman, the complainants' lawyer, said he and his clients remain hopeful that they will prevail with DFEH and that the state agency will take action against Natali.

"Mr. Natali is not out of the woods yet," said Turman. "Their investigation that was filed last fall is still ongoing. This tells me the state agency charged with the investigation of discrimination in

employment and public accommodation is still looking into the allegations raised despite what the ABC found. They are not simply going to look the other way as the ABC has done in this situation and many, many others."

Under California's Unruh Civil Rights Act, Ambrose's department is charged with investigating violations for public accommodations at bars and stores or anywhere the "public is invited to come in," explained Brown, who could not recall the last time the agency had received complaints about a gay bar.

If the DFEH finds that "unlawful practices" occurred, then the agency will refer the matter to what it calls conciliation, where DFEH mediators will try to resolve the matter. If conciliation fails, then the case is referred either to superior court or the agency's commission. DFEH could force Natali to pay damages to the injured party for both out of pocket expenses and emotional distress, as well as force him to change the way he conducts his business.

Larry Brinkin, a compliance officer with the HRC who has overseen the city investigation into Badlands, said it was the first time he had met with the state director to discuss a case. Though Brinkin said he has met with local representatives of DFEH.

"I think it might indicate this is a big case in the sense of how many complainants there are and the period of time the incidents are alleged to have occurred," said Brinkin. "The meeting went well. I think probably since we had already completed our investigation they thought it might be helpful for them to see what our process was and get an idea of the scope of our investigation. If they had completed it first, we would have wanted to do the same thing with them."

Based on the questioning from Ambrose, Brinkin said he suspects the state agency is looking to see if there is a pattern of racism in the city's gay community or if it is specific to one establishment.

"I told her of the cases we have had over the years," said Brinkin, who specifically cited accusations in the 1990s that the Midnight Sun prohibited Asians from entering the bar. "We've had other cases

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Ex-Pendulum employee files lawsuit

by Matthew S. Bajko

A Pendulum bartender and promoter of the bar's Latin nights is suing owner Les Natali and the bar's general manager for discrimination and wrongful termination.

Enrique Jimenez, 39, who tended bar at the Pendulum for four years and launched its Club La Cantina parties, filed suit against Natali and manager Berin Nakamura this winter after he was fired for one day. Jimenez also alleges the club's management broke a verbal agreement that he would receive a percentage of the Latin night proceeds.

"Berin made a lot of comments about how he don't like Latino music or Latin people there. He said fucking Latinos are taking over the Castro," said

Jimenez.

Jimenez charges that Natali wanted to shut down the Pendulum's Latin night because it was taking away business from the Badlands, which Natali also owns. He also charges that the Latin nights were what kept the Pendulum alive over the last several years.

"La Cantina was bringing in thousands and thousands of dollars for them every year. For almost the first two years La Cantina was saving the business," he said. "You know money talks; they can do whatever they want. I just want what I deserve."

Nakamura declined to discuss the lawsuit. Steve Goldstein, Natali's attorney who is also representing Nakamura in the case, called the lawsuit "the flimsiest discrimination case I have ever seen in my life. It is really nonsensical."

He said the reason for the can-

cellation of the Latin nights is because "at some point it was decided it was too expensive to put this on and it was not making money."

Jimenez, who was rehired the day after he was fired, admits that he had a rocky relationship with Nakamura and that during a meeting with Natali about the future of the Latin nights the conversation became heated.

"I told them very clearly I am not here to kiss the ass of the manager and owner, I am here to prove my job is working and prove my job with results," he said. "I asked them to explain to me why I was fired and Mr. Les said because 'I don't like you.'"

Jimenez, who was laid off with the rest of the Pendulum staff last week and received a severance package, said he hopes to be rehired by the bar's new owner when it reopens in the fall. ▼

Antigay measure

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they have the audacity, even in the face of this hugely draconian amendment, to say it wouldn't do what it says it will do."

As many as two other ballot anti-same-sex marriage initiatives proposed by other conservative groups are waiting for titles and summaries, which Lockyer's office could complete this week.

Kendell, who's involved in Equality for All, said there are two messages the community must get out to voters: first, there needs to be a conversation about how sweeping and hateful the measure is.

"Second, we must have an honest conversation about marriage and changing people's minds," she said.

"The impact of this amendment would be devastating to hundreds of thousands of California families by taking away nearly all the responsibilities and protections currently afforded to legally recognized domestic partners," said Sid Voorakkara, interim campaign manager for Equality for All. "Californians have a long history of rejecting discrimination and we are confident they will reject this attempt to single out one group of Californians for permanent second-class status."

There are 29,522 registered domestic partners in California. While that figure may be short of "hundreds of thousands of California families" cited by Voorakkara, Molly McKay, field director for Equality California,

said Monday that according to the 2000 census, there were 100,000 self-identified same-sex couples in the state.

"It also includes people who might want to register some day," McKay said, referring to the number of people that could be affected by the amendment.

Voorakkara told the *B.A.R.* that it's "not just legally recognized domestic partners" that would be affected.

"It's their families as well. There's a ripple effect," he said.

Last month, the state Supreme Court let stand AB205, the expanded domestic partner law that went into effect in January. Without comment, the justices unanimously upheld appellate and trial court rulings that AB205 does not conflict with the voter-approved Proposition 22, which defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

Antigay groups have been threatening for months to put an amendment on next year's ballot. Monday, Lockyer's office released the title and summary of the initiative, called "Marriage. Elimination of Domestic Partnership Rights." According to the ballot language, the measure "amends the California Constitution to provide that only marriage between one man and one woman is valid or recognized in California, whether contracted in this state or elsewhere. Voids and restricts registered domestic partner rights and obligations, for certain same-sex and heterosexual couples, in areas such as: ownership and transfer of property, inheritance,



EQCA field director Molly McKay

adoption, medical decisions, child custody and support, health and death benefits, insurance benefits, hospital visitation, employment benefits, and recovery for wrongful death and other tort remedies."

Geoffrey Kors, executive director of EQCA, criticized the proposal. "This extreme measure is nothing short of a nuclear weapon being launched at lesbian and gay Californians. It would totally wipe out all existing legal protections for legally recognized domestic partners and their children."

Conservative groups backing the measure were upset over the title, "Elimination of Domestic Partnership Rights" that Lockyer assigned to the initiative and said they would go to court.

EQCA's McKay, however, said the title is fine with her. "The good news is the title and summary – it makes crystal clear what the impact would be."

Kendell, too, noted the positive aspects of the proponents threatening court action over the title. "One good thing with the antigay industry challenging the title is that it's a catalyst for a conversation about how bad they are."

The title and summary must appear on the petitions that supporters use to gather signatures. According to the attorney general's office, proponents have until December 22 to collect 598,105 valid signatures for the initiative to appear on the June ballot.

Data

McKay said that neither EQCA nor the Equality for All campaign have done polling on how state voters view domestic partnership laws.

A Field Poll from August 2003 showed widespread support for domestic partnership laws applicable to unmarried people living together. According to the poll, which surveyed 1,036 California

adults, 72 percent supported granting legal recognition to such couples in the areas of family rights, such as hospital visitation rights, medical powers of attorney, and conservatorship. Another 61 percent favor granting financial dependence status to such couples, whereby partners receive benefits such as pensions, health and dental care coverage, family leave, and death benefits. A 54 percent majority also favors government registries where domestic partners could legally declare their partnership. The poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 5.8 percent.

California's domestic partner registry has been in existence for several years. AB205, which went into effect in January, added rights and responsibilities for the registered couples.

Mark DiCamillo, director of the Field Poll, said Monday that they have not done recent polling on domestic partner issues. The most recent poll on same-sex marriage was conducted in June 2004 and showed Californians disapprove of legalizing same-sex marriage by a margin of 53 percent to 43 percent. The finding was essentially unchanged from earlier Field Polls.

DiCamillo said his firm would "definitely be tracking" the new initiative should it qualify for the ballot. He was uncertain whether they would conduct a poll in advance of the measure qualifying.

What is most troubling to McKay and other LGBT advocates is that this new proposed measure, plus the others that are expected to be approved for signature gathering by the attorney general, is that it would take away gains made over the last several years. "This is everything," McKay said. "It would take away everything we've worked for. It's clearly out of step with where most Californians are."

She added, however, that it would take "a lot of work" by LGBTs and allies throughout the state to convey that message to voters.

"We need to explain why domestic partnerships are so important and the impact of losing legally recognized domestic partnerships would have in the state," she said.

Kendell agreed. "We have to make sure people understand that unlike Proposition 22, we have to unmask the real intent to strip same-sex couples of even the modest protections they have."

Kendell noted that a group that includes the widow of the late state Senator William J. "Pete" Knight, who authored Proposi-

tion 22, is backing one of the other proposed ballot initiatives. That amendment would go even further by preventing the state government from recognizing same-sex unions in any way, according to the Associated Press.

McKay said that EQCA and Equality for All have not yet decided whether to mount a "decline to sign" campaign that would pit gay rights allies against those attempting to gather signatures for the initiative, most likely at large shopping centers throughout the state. She did say, however, that they are "pushing forward" with public education campaigns.

Kendell, however, noted that most likely, signatures for the ballot measures would be collected in churches that "openly gay people aren't at."

At least one gubernatorial candidate has come out against the amendment. Democrat Steve Westly, currently state controller, issued a statement saying he was "saddened to see an antigay initiative cleared for signature gathering."

"I hope Californians will stand with me against all forms of discrimination in our state. Extremists must not be allowed to strip away the hard-earned rights of California's LGBT families," he said.

Broad opposition

Equality for All is a broad group of LGBT organizations and allies throughout the state. Thom Lynch, executive director of the LGBT Community Center, said that the coalition has been meeting regularly since May, either through conference calls or in group sessions. The LGBT center is expected to be a hub for local organizing efforts.

"The domestic partner law, one of the most comprehensive in the nation, was signed here at the center," Lynch said, referring to then-Governor Gray Davis's stop at the center in the fall of 2003 to sign AB205. The visit was during the height of the recall campaign that later drove him from office.

Already, there is broad opposition in the LGBT community to the planned initiative. Jeff Bissiri, California director of Log Cabin Republicans, issued a blistering statement. "This constitutional amendment has nothing to do with protecting marriage. This amendment seeks to radically roll back basic protections for California families," he said.

Bissiri also noted that during the 2000 campaign for Proposition 22, "proponents repeatedly asserted that it was not an effort to deny domestic partner benefits. Now we know they were lying. ▼

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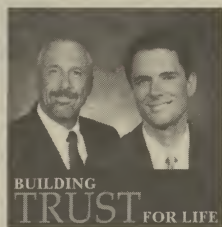
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Pendulum

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"It certainly declined the minute the bar went into escrow last May with Les. You would not believe how fast people ran screaming from our bar," she recalled. "It's really been bad since then and that is unfortunate. You can't blame an owner for what the bar becomes. If you don't show up, it won't be diverse."

Badlands

◀ previous page

we've handled through a mediator process but never formal complaints. It means someone called because they got hassled at this bar or business, and we call the owner to have conversations with them."

As for the HRC's response to Natali's appeal, Brinkin said it is still being reviewed by the city at-

For the last three years, even prior to Natali's buying the bar, Nakamura said the Pendulum was on life support and that former owner Rod Kobila "just couldn't compete" with the other Castro bars.

"We've been in trouble for the last three years. The Pendulum was slowly dying," he said. "It was very dated, very run down, and we had problems with the plumbing and electricity. If the bar hadn't sold it would have gone out of business."

Samra said MacNeil's plan for the Pendulum "is going to be fabulous" and as its new owner "he will be great." She said depending how long the bar is closed would be a deciding factor in whether she reapplies for her job.

Nakamura agreed, saying, "I think it is going to look really good. Once it is done, the Pendulum will be reborn into a much better space and much more able to accommodate and support our community." ▼

torney's office and hoped it would be released soon. He said the commission's findings will not be affected by the ABC's decision in the case, which he had yet to review, because the two agencies' investigations differed in approach.

"My understanding is that they took the complaints, interviewed the complainants, and they went and investigated if discrimination is going on in Badlands. They sent in their testers and were deter-

mining the current conditions at Badlands. We didn't do that," said Brinkin. "We investigated to see if the allegations were true and if discrimination had occurred, not what the present conditions are. To me that is apples and oranges."

As both sides wait for the city to release the HRC's response, the two parties are in talks to schedule mediation. Goldstein said he didn't expect the first meeting to be scheduled for several weeks. ▼

OBITUARIES

U.S. silent over execution of Iranian gay teens

by Zak Szymanski

GBT activists expressed alarm this week that the United States government has not publicly condemned the reported execution of two gay teenagers in Iran.

News of the July 19 executions – including graphic images of the young men crying and being hanged – quickly circulated around the Internet. The Iranian Students News Agency reported that the teens were caught having consensual sex when they were 16 and that they were tortured for 14 months before their death sentences were carried out. Although the Iranian government has since stated that the teens were executed for raping a young boy and that both teens were 18 at the time of their crimes, international human rights groups have disputed that account and called the charge of rape a “smokescreen” to justify the killing of homosexuals. In Iran, homosexual acts are punishable by death. However, according to the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that death sentences may be imposed only for the most serious crimes, which excludes consensual sexual relationships.

At press time, IGLHRC main-

tained that there were conflicting accounts of why the teens were executed, but the organization condemned the killings because of its opposition to the death penalty, the disproportionate punishment in relation to the alleged crimes, and because of international agreements regarding the use of capital punishment.

The Human Rights Campaign, however, took a different approach, calling on Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to condemn the executions of the teenagers who “were hanged ... simply for being caught having consensual sex.”

“Atrocities committed by foreign governments against all people must be condemned swiftly and forcefully by the world’s greatest democracy. We urge you to do so,” said the letter to Rice, which was signed by HRC President Joe Solmonese.

San Francisco activist Michael Petrelis also circulated an e-mail urging community members to contact Rice’s office. In his own letter to Rice, Petrelis wrote, “In light of the outrageous hanging of these gay Iranian teens and our country’s commitment to protecting the human rights of all the world’s citizens, I believe you have a responsibility to strongly and unequivocally deplore the executions by the Iranian government.” He also cited Rice’s recent comments at a Commonwealth Club forum in San Francisco. As

reported in the *Bay Area Reporter*, Rice was quoted as saying that democratic societies include all people regardless of sexual orientation, and such societies have a responsibility to monitor and discuss human rights issues around the world.

On Tuesday, July 26, the European Union condemned the executions, according to news reports. Rice’s office did not return phone calls from the *B.A.R.* seeking comment on whether the United States would publicly condemn the executions. ▼

William Jeffery Ketcham



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A gifted artist, Jeffery studied in Europe, California and New York. He leaves a substantial body of work in paintings, sculpture, carved boxes, and woodblock prints.

Jeffery was a true gentleman with a kind and compassionate nature who lived with integrity and courage. Jeffery’s sense of humor, generosity, and loyalty, along with his tremendous talent will be missed by all who loved him.

Jeffery is survived by his loving parents, William and Barbara Ketcham, and sisters, Susan Gilchrist, Linda and Carolyn Ketcham. Jeffery will be missed by his dear friends in San Francisco, Valerie Hartwell, Liz Safire, Jay Sheffield, and

Linda Willard, and by all those who were fortunate enough to have known him.

“This world was never meant for one as beautiful as you.” — Don McLean, *Vincent*.

A memorial will be held on August 6, 2005, at 1:00 p.m., at 1165 Fell St. Call 415-317-0599. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to PAWS, P.O. Box 460487, San Francisco, CA 94146.

Louie Loyo

January 29, 1930 - July 22, 2005



Lifelong San Francisco resident Louie Loyo passed away peacefully on July 22nd. Louie will be lovingly remembered by his many friends and family. A service will be held at 11:00 a.m.

on Friday, July 29th at Chapel of the Sea, 801 Oceana Boulevard, Pacifica, Tel: 650-355-3411. A reception celebrating Louie’s life will be held after the service in San Francisco.

Frist speech

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bilize a protest.

His prepared remarks avoided such controversial topics as the president’s plans to overhaul Social Security and Medicare, stem cell research, HIV prevention, or the reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act. Instead, Frist talked about the need to curtail drug company advertising, restrict malpractice lawsuits against doctors, and bring the medical profession into the digital age.

And Frist, a former heart surgeon and only doctor in the Senate, lamented the fact that “the patient is not at the heart of the healthcare system. The American healthcare sector today is failing the American people.”

When asked about his and the Senate’s involvement in the Terri Schiavo case – Frist argued the Florida woman was not brain dead and that her parents should be allowed to care for her despite her husband’s wishes to end her life – he defended his and the Senate’s actions.

“The American people don’t want us getting into individual lives. What they do want us to do is protect life,” said Frist. “The woman was not brain dead. She was not terminally ill. She was not on life support. All the blood relatives said, ‘She responds to us and we love her. She is alive. Why are you letting the rule of law kill

her?’ The answer to that is being the rule of law the husband can make the call.”

Attorney Colin Gallagher, a gay Republican who attended the speech, said based on Frist’s response, there is no need to pass a federal amendment to restrict marriage to only a man and a woman.

“I guess marriage is not a sacred contract between a man and a woman after all if the wishes of Terri Schiavo’s blood relatives trump the desires and wishes she expressed to her husband. Marriage is not a sacred tradition in need of federal protection after

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Going the distance

by Jim Provenzano

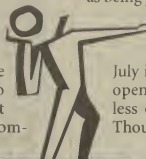
The road to Gay Games VII is not going to be an easy one, particularly since American right-wing groups are continuing their hate campaign against the event.

Last month, Cook County commissioners unanimously approved a measure welcoming the Olympic-style games to Chicago next year. But just last week, five of the 17 commissioners removed their names from that welcome.

Republicans Gregg Goslin, Liz Gorman, Carl Hansen, Tony Peraica, and Peter Silvestri retracted their support of the proclamation, under pressure from the right-wing Illinois Family Institute, which is urging its conservative supporters to pressure even Democratic commissioners to retract support of the seventh Games.

"There's a big difference be-

tween tolerating and celebrating homosexuality," said the Illinois Family Institute's Peter LaBarbera in a *Chicago Sun-Times* article. "For governments to be using taxpayer money and big corporations spending money to sponsor this, we think the average Joe sees that as being just a little bit off."



Sports Complex

The weeklong sports and cultural event, to be held next July in Chicago, will feature open competitions regardless of sexual orientation. Thousands of GLBT athletes may be what LaBarbera sees as being "a bit off."

Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, Cook County, and state officials issued official welcoming proclamations months ago. But one of the commissioners doesn't even remember signing on to the proclamation. Peraica — who is running for county board president next year — said he "must have been out of the room" at the time.

"It's just not in keeping with

my personal beliefs," said Peraica. "I'm a pro-family kind of person and conservative on social issues. That's nothing against the gay and lesbian community, but it's nothing I want to advance as a cause celebre."

Gay Games co-chair Tracy Baim, who is also the editor of the gay newspaper *Windy City Times*, which is sponsoring the Games, said the Republican backtracking "wasn't surprising," and she "was actually more surprised when they" voted in favor of it.

Commissioner Mike Quigley, who sponsored the welcome and will play hockey in the Games, was a bit more upset. "It's a blinding bias and animosity that is overriding human interest, job creation, economic development, and the whole spirit of athletic competition," said Quigley.

Gorman said she doesn't support "special rights for any group."

Since when is competing in a sports event a "special right," Ms. Gorman?

Such cowardly backtracking by politicians obviously catering to their right-wing constituents isn't holding back the Gay Games organizers, or their sponsors. Kraft Foods Inc. is sticking with its sponsorship, despite a boycott called by the American Family Association, which also seems to think gay people shouldn't be allowed to play sports, or at least that a major corporation shouldn't sponsor such an event.

Travel company Orbitz has been named the official online travel agency for Gay Games VII. Orbitz was the first major online travel company to launch a gay travel microsite and continues to make diversity a priority as a global gold sponsor for the Gay Games.

Fans, athletes, and artists traveling to Chicago for the Gay Games can go to Orbitz's Web site to book air, hotel, and car rentals. Orbitz also plans to launch travel packages in September.

"Orbitz is proud to be a global sponsor of Gay Games VII, which will take place in our hometown of Chicago," said Mitch Truitt, president and chief executive officer of Orbitz.

GLBT athletes and those headed to Chicago to participate in cultural and other events should take notice of which companies are taking what has become a political stance to some, but more of a sensible marketing opportunity to others.

Having the seventh Games in the U.S. at such a politically divi-



Cheer SF's Sanford Smith, left, and Michelle Mateychuk of the SF Earthquakes hockey team at the Team SF party, where new Gay Games uniform designs were unveiled.

sive time may prove to be even more controversial and a struggle for GLBT rights than ever before. A brief look at a few conservative Web sites like www.GOPToday.org and the bizarre and hateful comments about GLBT athletes prove the incredulous level of ignorance on the part of Republicans, who had never even heard of the Gay Games. Some even thought there would be sexual acts performed in Wrigley Field.

Sorry, right-wingers. We'll leave such activities to the "straight" Super Bowl halftime show.

Think global, act local

Locally, Team San Francisco prepared for its year leading up to the Games with a fundraiser party at the Metro bar. Held on July 14, Team SF board members welcomed athletes and their friends, and unveiled the designs for their new team uniforms, which are quite dashing.

Raffle prizes included two roundtrip airfares on Jet Blue airlines, and certificates to Tower Records, Vital Health, Phantom, Gold's Gym, Injeanious, Rock Hard, plus a gift bag from Falcon Studios (Hm. I wonder if it included DVDs of a few Gay Games medalists who've gone on to a different kind of fame via performing in Falcon movies?).

As for the clothed athletes, the new uniforms are \$77 and available with a paid annual Team SF membership (\$25). For more info, visit www.teamsf.org.

Bridge of sighs

The San Francisco Marathon and Half Marathon take place Sunday, July 31, with the course

including a run across the Golden Gate Bridge.

San Francisco FrontRunners have at least 10 runners competing in the full 26.2 mile marathon and another 10 running in the half marathon, according to SFRR member William McCarty, who has been busy training for the SF Marathon with two long runs with the Bay Area Distance Runners.

"These runners have trained many hours, often very early in the morning, to get themselves prepared," said McCarty. "We have multi-generational representation. It will be 23-year-old Max Gunawan's first marathon. Particularly noteworthy among our runners is Terry Baransky, who is running in his 95th marathon overall and in his 16th San Francisco Marathon."

The FrontRunners are also in charge of one of the 12 water stops along the course, where they will be busy handing out sports drinks and water to the runners.

The runners are expected to begin crossing the Bridge at about 5:30 a.m., with the last runner coming off the bridge by approximately 7:45. Expect traffic delays near the Bridge until approximately 10.

The race information line is (415) 284-9653. Info on the event can be viewed at www.runsfm.com and www.goldengate.org (bridge info).

For more info on local GLBT-friendly running groups, visit www.sffrontrunners.org and www.sfbadr.com.

For more columns, visit www.sportscomplex.org.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Pool party

The San Francisco Pool Association will hold its next meeting at the GLBT Historical Society tonight (Thursday, July 28) and then hold a reception for member GLBT pool players and view the "Sporting Life" exhibit, from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

The SFPA's fall season begins on August 2. If you would like to join a team, contact head referee Bernie King at (415) 203-9742, or e-mail berniekingsf@yahoo.com

Bring it

Cheer San Francisco is holding annual tryouts for prospective new members. Three tryout clinics will precede the actual audition session.

Clinics will be held from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 30; Sunday, July 31, and Tuesday, August 2 at Justin Herman Plaza near the Ferry Building at the foot of Market Street in downtown San Francisco. A third and final August 2 clinic will be at Flead Over Heels, 1250 45th Street, in Emeryville. The actual tryouts will be held Saturday, August 6, from noon to 5 p.m., at the SF Bay Club, 150 Greenwich in San Francisco.

People selected to the popular cheerleading team will attend a three-day college cheer camp at the University of California, Santa Barbara from August 12-14. Cheer SF is celebrating its 25th anniversary year and will now be working toward Gay Games VII in Chicago where cheerleading is an official event for the first time. Info: www.cheersf.org.

Send your event info (two weeks in advance, please) to: jimproven@yahoo.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TG clinic

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weight or got their diabetes under control or have done whatever was necessary so that they weren't adding another risk factor with testosterone, but removing a risk factor to do what they needed to do without hurting themselves."

It is also the transgender population at Tom Waddell, said Monihan, that has been the most vocal and articulate whenever the health center has faced budget cuts, and transgenders have repeatedly made the case to city policy makers for funding the center as a whole. When Monihan accepted an award on behalf of the transgender clinic from the transgender community last month, she told audience members that the entire health center owed a great deal to them.

"They have been the most outspoken of all our patients," said Monihan. "We owe the transgender community a lot for keeping our clinic as viable as it is."

For more information about the Tom Waddell transgender clinic, visit www.dph.sfga.us/chn/HlthCtrs/transgender.htm. If you are a past or present patient of the transgender clinic and wish to attend Tuesday's party, call (415) 307-6290 or (415) 355-7588 to get on the list or to receive an invitation. ▼

Gay men

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cisco's Office of Emergency Services and Homeland Security and who was active in performing last year's same-sex marriage ceremonies as Mayor Gavin Newsom's liaison to the gay community.

"When I first moved here I felt like people said 'hello' for no reason, all the time," said Caruso. But we live in such troubled times now. Not only the Castro, but the whole planet needs extra love."

Most importantly, said Imbriani, SFGMCI is about "creating ways to get guys together to talk" and hopefully, developing new community standards.

"It could take years to make a change when we're talking about community norms. But we want to see new ones added, like being friendly to someone you don't know or don't even want to know," he said. "Just acknowledging that they are alive can go a long way for people who are feeling lonely, and when they are faced with life-altering choices they may choose the healthier one because they feel worth it." ▼

For more information, visit the group's Web site at www.sfgmci.org, or call (415) 820-9606.

Frist speech

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all," he said.

Asked if he thought Frist should run for president, Gallagher replied, "In my area of worker's comp law we have doctors who do utilization review writing of individual cases without seeing the patient. Instead of running for president, maybe that is what Dr. Frist should do." ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0286121-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Grateful Dent, 46 Henry St., San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Robert Levander. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6/14/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 6/14/05. JULY 7, 14, 21, 28, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0286557-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lilly's Productions, 230 Eddy St., #507, San Francisco, CA 94102. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Corazon Smith. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 6/20/05. JULY 7, 14, 21, 28, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0286497-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Tooker & Antz, 350 Sansome St., Ste 700, San Francisco, CA 94104. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Frederic Tooker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/1/95. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 6/28/05. JULY 7, 14, 21, 28, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0286554-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mr. San Francisco Leather Contest, 395 9th St., San Francisco, Ca. #2805. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Marcus Hernandez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 6/30/05. JULY 21, 28, AUG 4, 11, 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05542187

In the matter of the application of Shawn Vene Giammattei for change of gender. The application of Shawn Vene Giammattei for change of gender having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Shawn Vene Giammattei has filed an application for change of gender from female to male. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 25th day of August, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of gender should not be granted. JULY 7, 14, 21, 28, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0286705-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Creative Jewelry, 1010 Utah St., #112, San Francisco, CA 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Angela Wang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7/07/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7/07/05. JULY 14, 21, 28, AUG 4 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0286159-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mathew Harney Personal Services, 290 Divisadero St., San Francisco, CA 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Mathew Harney. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7/15/05. JULY 14, 21, 28, AUG 4 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0286662-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Vietnam Tot Restaurant, 701 Larkin St., San Francisco, CA 94109. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Vy Quoc Le. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7/01/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7/06/05. JULY 14, 21, 28, AUG 4 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0286444-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Artisan Wines & Spirits, Pier 19, San Francisco, Ca. 94111. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Lou Buck. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 6/24/05. JULY 14, 21, 28, AUG 4 2005

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

To whom it may concern: The name of the applicants is/are Galleria Park Associates, LLC and Perry's Downtown, Inc. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 71 Stevenson Street, Suite #1500 San Francisco, CA 94105, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 185 Sutter St., San Francisco, Ca. 94104. Type of License applied for: 47 - ON-SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE - 66 - CONTROLLED ACCESS CABINET PERMIT JULY 14, 2005

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #028419

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as Vietnam Tot Restaurant located at 701 Larkin St., San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business was conducted by an individual signed Katie Nguyen. The fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7/06/05. JULY 14, 21, 28 AUG 4, 2005

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO VACANCY NOTICES

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unscheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application from the Board of Supervisors' web site, at www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/bdsuprvs/Vacancy_Notices/vacancy_app.pdf or from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: www.sfgov.org/bdsuprvs

Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE, HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT
Seat 2, represents public at large, subject to review and affirmation by the Board of Supervisors in January of each odd-numbered year, for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending January 31, 2007.

SAN FRANCISCO MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Seat 1, must be a member of the public from historical organizations including, but not limited to, organizations focused on the history of ethnic or racial minorities, sexual orientations, gender or any of the various other cultural communities within San Francisco, for the unexpired portion of a one-year term ending December 16, 2005.

Seat 2, must be a member of the public from historical organizations including, but not limited to, organizations focused on the history of ethnic or racial minorities, sexual orientations, gender or any of the various other cultural communities within San Francisco, for the unexpired portion of a one-year term ending December 16, 2005.

Seat 3, must be a member from organizations or communities with extensive knowledge of the history or cultural traditions of an ethnic minority community within San Francisco with a focus on ancestral lineage or other historical and cultural links to the San Francisco Bay Area, for the unexpired portion of a one-year term ending April 21, 2006.

SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Free or low-cost health care, (800) 300-9950. If you or someone you know needs immunizations, check-ups, dental care, birth control, pregnancy testing, or prenatal care, call us. We are here to help women, teens, and children find free or low-cost health care. The San Francisco Department of Public Health provides referrals to clinics, doctors, and dentists in San Francisco. Our English, Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin speaking staff are here to take your call. Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Supplemental Nutrition Program provides nutrition education, food vouchers, and breastfeeding support for pregnant women, postpartum women, infants, and children younger than five. Vouchers are picked up at a WIC site on a monthly/bimonthly basis and may be exchanged for milk, cheese, eggs, cereal, juice, peanut butter/beans, and infant formulas in most grocery stores. All WIC services are free of charge. For more information, please call (415) 575-5788.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Please complete a meeting information/public noticing survey online at <http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsuprvs> or call (415) 554-5184 for a survey form.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05542219

In the matter of the application of Quan Minh Pham for change of name. The application of Quan Minh Pham for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Quan Minh Pham has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Thomas Gia Pham. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 6th day of September, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. JULY 14, 21, 28, AUG 4, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0286831-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sevendays Creation, 2306 28th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by a husband and wife, signed Sam and Beth. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7/2/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7/12/05. JULY 14, 21, 28, AUG 4 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0286740-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Whimsy - A Cupcake Catering Company, 2454 14th Ave., San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by co-partners, signed Evelyn Barreche. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7/08/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7/08/05. JULY 21, 28, AUG 4, 11 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0286598-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Professional Pet Pal, Red Gryphon Creations, 3400 Ritch St. #3, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed M.J. McClain. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7/01/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7/01/05. JULY 21, 28, AUG 4, 11, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0287141-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Studio Voltaire, 1126 Ashbury St., San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Gwynn Goodner. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7/12/05. JULY 28 AUG 4, 11, 28, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0287067-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: One RN Solution, 4104 24th St. #435 San Francisco, Ca. 94114-3615. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jessica Kellie Lindley. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7/20/05. JULY 28 AUG 4, 11, 28, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0287078-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Access San Francisco, 1720 Market St., San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Zane Blaney. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/01/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7/20/05. JULY 28 AUG 4, 11, 28, 2005

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

On July 19, 2005, the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOJ) issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the San Francisco Mayor's Community Support Fund. The purpose of the Community Court Fund is to support enrichment projects that will enhance public safety and the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Eligibility is limited to neighborhood community-based organizations with documented non-profit 501(c)(3) status that are located and/or provide services in Bayview Hunters Point, Taraval/OMI, Mission, South of Market, Tenderloin, Excelsior/Ingleside, Western Addition, Polk Street, North Beach, Richmond, Sunset and Chinatown. Potential applicants that do not have a community court in their neighborhood may still apply for enrichment projects in their neighborhood. The RFP and Fund Guidelines will be available for download at: www.sfgov.org/moj. Select the Request for Proposals tab. The RFP and Fund Guidelines will also be available in hard copy at: Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 496 San Francisco, CA 94102. For more information call 415.554.6515. Applications must be submitted to the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 10. No late applications will be accepted.

STATEMENT FILE A-0287113-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: 1)Miss Philippines-USA 2)Mr. Philippines-USA 3) Mrs. Philippines-USA 4)Little Miss Philippines-USA 5)Little Mr. Philippines-USA 6)Filipino Idol-USA, 230 Eddy St. #570, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Corazon J. Smith. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7/21/05. JULY 28 AUG 4, 11, 28, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0286957-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Techno Electric Co., 1221 York St., San Francisco Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jorge Caballero. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/26/95. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7/18/05. JULY 28 AUG 4, 11, 28, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0287217-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Syss Company, 1249 20th Ave., San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Fang Sun, Shan Shan Sun, and Rem Lee. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7/25/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7/26/05. JULY 28 AUG 4, 11, 28, 2005

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

To whom it may concern: The name of the applicants is/are Bon Appetit Management Co. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 71 Stevenson Street, Suite #1500 San Francisco, Ca. 94105, to sell alcoholic beverages at: Lincoln Park Palace of the Lo H, San Francisco, Ca. 94121. Type of License applied for: 47 - ON-SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE JULY 28, 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05542237

In the matter of the application of Paul David Wood Jr. for change of name. The application of Paul David Wood Jr. for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Paul David Wood Jr. has filed an application for change of name to Pablo Campos. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 15th day of September, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. JULY 28 AUG 4, 11, 28, 2005

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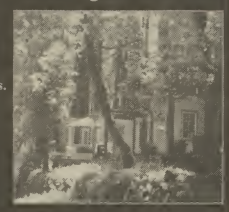


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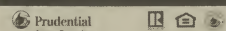
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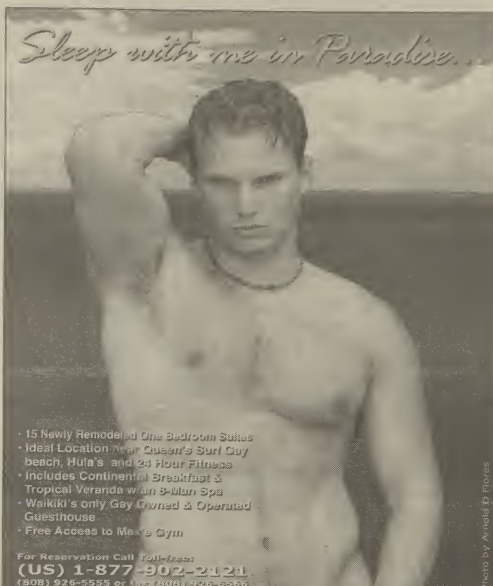
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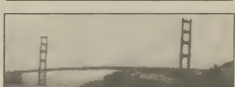
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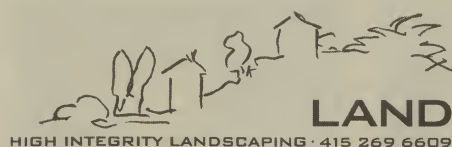
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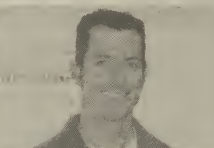
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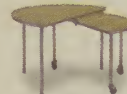
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May-December romance
*'Harold & Maude' is made
 into TheatreWorks musical.*

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Castro loves Debbie
*La Reynolds gets star
 treatment from crowd.*

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 35 • No. 30 • 28 July 2005

Queen of cuchi- cuchi

Charo will rock the house
 at the Herbst Theatre

by Adam Sandel

There have been highs and lows in the years I've spent interviewing celebrities for these pages. But nothing can compare to the thrill I felt when I answered my phone one recent afternoon to hear a voice say, "Buenos tardes, Adam. This is Charo."

My life was now complete. I savored the moment, almost forgetting that I had questions to ask the legendary Latin spitfire and star of *The Tonight Show*, Las Vegas and *The Hollywood Squares*, who holds the world record for most guest appearances on *The Love Boat*.

Before I could gather my wits and my questions, she fired away at me with, "I yem berry, berry ex-thited to intro-duth my bren new cho ang my bren new thee-dee." (Allow me to translate.)

As well-known for her fractured English as for her cascading mane of blonde hair and hyperactive hips, Charo admits that she's often misunderstood, even after more than 30 years in America. "When I first came to this country, I did not speak English at all. I had to learn it to survive, but still nobody knows what the hell I'm talking about."

Charo will bring her new Las Vegas "cho" to the Herbst Theatre for one night only on Saturday, August 6. The extravaganza features four dancers and four musicians, and will highlight songs from her new "thee-dee," *Charo and Guitar*.

Beneath her comic sexpot exterior, Charo is an accomplished classical guitarist who, at 14, studied with the great Andres Segovia. She has twice been named the Best Flamenco Guitarist in the World by *Guitar Player* magazine, and her CD *Guitar Passion* went platinum and earned her the Female Pop Album of the Year Award at the 1995 Billboard International Latin Music Conference.

Chatting with me from the recording studio, Charo en-
 page 34 ►



Charo Entertainment

Love matters

Dena DeRose makes jazz music

by Michael McDonagh

Life is full of surprises. Just when you think you're controlling the game, you get a curveball. That certainly seemed to be the case when I called jazz singer-pianist-composer Dena DeRose, who had said she'd be happily ensconced in her hotel when the time for our phone interview arrived. But when she answered her cell, she laughed and said she was still in the plane on the runway at Kennedy, awaiting clearance. Two summer storms, acts of God if you will, had prevented take-off, so we grabbed what time we had and talked. The charming artist, who turned 39 this February, seemed to take everything in stride. She even seemed amused at her temporary fate. Besides, what could she do?

We spoke in earnest a bit later. How did her two nights with her trio — Martin Wind, bass, and Matt Wilson, drums — at Rochester New York's The Lodge at Woodcliff go? "Really great. It's a very nice resort hotel." And the

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Appearing soon at Stanford's
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SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

Venetian, Vesuvian and vivacious

Swept away by illustrated novels and widescreen movies

by Roberto Friedman

Don't look now, but Out There has had our nose buried in the usual place again. We mean in a book! *Maahvelous! Princess Puut and Dali Do Venice* (Glitterati Incorporated) is a spiffy new illustrated novel by **Scott Chambliss**, production designer for TV's *Alias*, with a preface by actress **Isabella Rossellini**, of all people.

International glamour gal Princess Puut's fabulous gig starring in beauty infomercials has been unceremoniously terminated, so she and cohort Dali jet to Venice in pursuit of handsome Italian men and adventure. They stay at a "nine-star, canal-adjacent Palazzo, La Passagiotto Mysterioso, recommended by Princess Puut's close personal friend, **Charo**." Puut (rhymes with suit) has packed only her essential **Manolo Blahniks** (62 pairs) and every damn piece of **Dolce & Gabbana** she owns.

The Princess' dream of a hundred gorgeous Italian men is vividly realized on the Accademia Bridge as she and Dali stumble upon a photo shoot for the *Antipasti & Fitch* catalog. The intrepid pair share helpful tips on what to do in Venice ("hire your own personal gondolier; have your signature hand-lettered on the side of his boat, request that he pole bare-chested on hot days") and what not to do ("choose not to fall into a canal"). It's *molto maahveloso*.

Yes, size does matter, but we don't care how big a screen you have attached to your home-entertainment complex, there are some films that can only be appreciated up on the Silver Screen of a real moviehouse. The Castro Theatre, film palace *par excellence*, offers an excellent run of 70mm films from August 1-11, starting with the San Francisco picture of all time, *Vertigo* (8/1), and wrapping up with vintage **Barbra Streisand** in *Hello, Dolly!* (8/11).

Along with widescreen wonders like *2001: A Space Odyssey*



"Curly-haired, dark-skinned, light-skinned, big-eyed, long-eyelashed, sinewy and mostly naked men crowded around them" on the Accademia Bridge.

(8/2) and **Tommy** (8/9), the series includes director **David Lean**'s epic *Lawrence of Arabia* (8/3). As British officer **T.E. Lawrence**, great actor **Peter O'Toole** perhaps plays down Larry of Arabia's particular penchant for Bedouin boys. Even so, anyone who's ever seen this spectacular knows more about Arab culture than the danderheads who dragged us into the current unquarmer. More info on the 70mm series at castrotheatref.com.

OK, we admit it: sometimes writing this column can be good fun. Why else would we be privy to a newsy message from the Vice President of Licensing and Sales for Advanced Graphics, the self-described "home of cardboard people" located in beautiful Benicia, CA? Seems that the Advanced Graphics folks are introducing their newest "Life-size Cardboard Standup," and it depicts none other than the late showbiz legend **Liberace** decked out in hot pants. Not for the faint of heart. You can

see photos of the standups at www.cardboardpeople.com.

Reynolds wrap

Movietime impresario **Marc Huestis** celebrated 10 years of putting on Castro Theatre extravaganzas as he presented star of stage and screen **Debbie Reynolds** at the fabulous, palatial cinema last Friday night, and survey says La Reynolds was a hoot and packed them in. Her best line: "I've never been in a theatre where so many men didn't want me. You may love me, but you don't want me."

Referring to her peer and superstar **Elizabeth Taylor**, she said, "We've known each other since we were 17. I gave her my husband. How much closer could we get?" Pictures are with the *On the Town* column on p. 40. Partial proceeds from the event will benefit Project Open Hand, a veddy worthy cause.

Huestis says on the record that, as 10 is a nice, round number of years to be putting on these big

shows, he's going to give it a rest and hang it up for a while. At least he won't have to deal with theater owners more concerned with candy sales than human resources.

Looking ahead, *Help Is on the Way* for the Xth time this coming Monday night, Aug. 1, 8 p.m. at the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre in SF. The **Richmond/Ermet AIDS** Foundation event benefits five Bay Area AIDS service agencies, this time in a musical celebration of **Jule Styne & Harold Arlen**. The show always attracts a bevy of stars of stage and screen, large and small. Info is at helpisontheway.org.

'Onion' leftovers

Last week, as we told you, Out There was besieged with readers making sure we'd seen that OpEd piece in the humor weekly *The Onion*, "Why Do All These Homosexuals Keep Sucking My Cock?" Turns out the *Onion* used that particular piece four years ago, and as a dashing **Bay Area reporter** notes, the article was posted at that time in a B.A.R. bathroom as humorous (and gay-friendly!) reading material. Not in the executive washroom, we assure you.

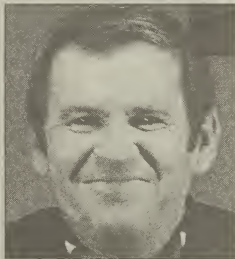
Another *Onion* OpEd in a re-

cent issue was also resurrected from the past. We know because it's collected in an anthology of *Onion* peels that sits upon our shelf! "What Passes for Crunchilicious These Days!" recently appeared in an encore presentation. Considering that the *Onion* fills only a few slim pages with copy before devolving into a listings rag, couldn't they at least come up with a few new items?

Tic tac homo

As co-authors **Steve Wilson** and **Joe Florenski** note in their new biography *Center Square - The*

next page ►



Paul Lynde in the center square.

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FILM

Hitch when he was in bitchin' form

Homoerotic Hitchcock thrillers play the Castro Theatre

by Tavo Amador

Sir Alfred Hitchcock (1899-1980) was classic Hollywood's most acclaimed master of suspense. Sometimes he wanted to frighten the audience. Occasionally, his films had a surprise ending. At other times, he tinged them with romance, including homoeroticism. From July 29-31, the Castro Theatre will run six of his most fascinating movies, showing his full range as a director.

The Birds ('63) is based on a Daphne Du Maurier short story. Sexy Rod Taylor meets pretty Tippi Hedren at a pet shop near San Francisco's Union Square. She agrees to deliver a pet finch to his mother's house in Bodega Bay. The result is a series of ever-intensifying avian attacks on humans. A very scary film, shot on location. With Suzanne Pleshette. Hedren stars as *Marnie* ('64), a role offered to Grace Kelly, but her duties as Monaco's reigning Princess prevented her from accepting. This is a disturbing romance involving a chilly beauty who prefers stealing from her employers and lying about it to love. Handsome Sean Connery is the boss who blackmails her into marriage, determined to root out the cause of her neurotic behavior. Is she worth it? Very atmospheric. Miss Hedren will appear in person at the Castro for a reception at 5:30 p.m., where she will answer questions posed by critic David Thomson. (Friday, July 29)

In *Strangers on a Train* ('50), gorgeous Farley Granger is tennis player Guy Haines. His casual meeting with wealthy, charming Bruno Anthony (Robert Walker) leads to a nightmare. Guy wants to divorce his grasping wife to marry another woman (Ruth Roman). Bruno longs to kill his nasty, rich father. The solution, says Bruno, is for him to murder the present Mrs. Haines, and for Guy to knock off dear old dad. Since they have no connection with their victims, no one would be the wiser. To Guy's dismay, Bruno carries out his end of their "agreement" and is not amused to find his papa still among the living. Based on Patricia Highsmith's novel, with a screenplay by Raymond Chandler. The meeting between Guy and Bruno captures the way gay men picked each other up in that homophobic, closeted era, and must have resonated with sophisticated audiences. With Leo G. Carroll, Marion Lorne, and Patricia Hitchcock, the director's daughter.

Rope ('48) is based on the real-life Leopold and Loeb murder



Anthony Perkins stars in Hitchcock's classic thriller *Psycho* (1960).

case in Chicago in the '20s. The beautiful Granger and John Dall are college "roommates" who kill a friend to see if they can commit the perfect crime. Their dead pal is placed in a trunk in the living room, and the boys invite a college professor (James Stewart) over for a philosophical discussion about getting away with murder. Will they succeed? The homoerotic nature of the killers' relationship is quite daring for the era, and is also based on fact. Granger, as the more high-strung youth, is very good. Hitchcock shot the movie in 10-minute takes, which detracts from the suspense. Between films, Patricia Hitchcock will be interviewed on stage at the Castro by San Francisco's irrepressible Jan Wahl. (Both Saturday, July 30)

Psycho killer

Psycho ('60) is all about a boy and his mother. Anthony Perkins is Norman Bates, and Janet Leigh is Marian Crane, an embezzler on the run, who checks into the Bates Motel. She has no idea of the trouble that awaits her. The famous shower scene is still suspenseful,

humor of his own at the counter. When a customer ordered a rump roast, Hoy would lay *Shorty*, the assistant, across the block, grab a saw, and pretend to shave off a piece of his ass." Hmmm.

Revealed: fellow Hollywood Square **Charles Nelson Reilly** admits he lifted his trademark queer laugh. "I stole it from Paul Lynde, who stole it from Alice Ghostley."

• Heads up: One free column inch for the hard-pressed *Orion*! We call it "Headlines we'd like to see:"

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and the ending is quite a surprise. The real-life gay Perkins, a fine actor, became a victim of the movie's success and found himself typecast in weirdo roles for much of his remaining career. (He died of AIDS in '92.) With hunky John Gavin, Vera Miles, and Martin Balsam. The exciting score is by Bernard Hermann.

In *Rebecca* ('40), based on Du Maurier's famous novel, the nameless second Mrs. De Winter (a young, lovely Joan Fontaine) unexpectedly marries wealthy, sophisticated Maxim de Winter (Laurence Olivier), and they return to his ancestral home, a gothic English pile called *Manderley*, where his late wife Rebecca reigned as lady of the manor.

Housekeeper Mrs. Danvers (a fierce Judith Anderson) makes it clear the new chatelaine is an unworthy successor to the glorious Rebecca. Anderson movingly suggests her character's lesbian attachment for her late mistress — her room is maintained exactly as it was on the night she died. She handles objects in it as though each were the Holy Grail. Fontaine's touching performance made her a star. With George Sanders, Gladys Cooper, Nigel Bruce, and Florence Bates. This brilliant version of horror in an old dark house is the only Hitchcock film to win a Best Picture Oscar. Highly atmospheric, with a neat twist at the end. (Both Sunday, July 31) ▼



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Out There

◀ previous page

Paul Lynde Story (Advocate Books), the gay TV personality sneaked catty, queer humor into the Middle American living room long before **Ellen DeGeneres** was even a speck in her mama **Betty's** eye. With bitchy wit in *Hollywood Squares*, he showed TV viewers that "a gay man could deliver the jokes, not just be the butt of them. Paul titillated a naïve public by dancing right at the threshold of the closet, infusing his lines with an undercurrent of queer sexual frustration."

He grew up in small-town Ohio. Lynde's father **Hoy** was a butcher who "showed some

Death by convenience store

'November' was inspired by a true-life crime

by David Lamble

A part from Kettle Chips and chocolate-coated ice-cream bars with nuts and sprinkles, my favorite nighttime addiction is reading (often in these pages) about my fellow citizens mindlessly struck down where they lived, or in places they associated with simple, mundane pleasures. "Lovers found dead in murder/suicide pact in Tenderloin SRO," or, "Young man killed outside Polk Street bar, police request help in identifying the body." Sometimes I clip the story and ruminate over the details for years to come, or find myself stumbling by the actual scene of the crime.

Screenwriter Benjamin Brand experienced that kind of tabloid epiphany in a small story in *The New York Times*. A decade later, Brand's script, with the help of director Greg Harrison, has morphed into a haunting psychological thriller about the aftermath of a convenience store murder/robbery.

Sophie (Courteney Cox from TV's *Friends* and Wes Craven's *Scream*) is a community college

photography instructor who, many months after the crime, finds herself starting to mistrust her memories of the incident that took the life of her boyfriend (James LeGros). Harrison, known to indie fans for his San Francisco-based feature about the rave movement, *Groove*, has crafted a low-budget gem that plays with time, memory and regret.

I told Harrison that *November* caught me doubly off-guard: its gritty neighborhood setting, which I mistook for SF, is actually LA's Boyle Heights; and its trope of terrible events occurring in disturbingly familiar surroundings echoes so much of the best of Hitchcock classics.

"I loved the idea of making this store — you go there, you pick up bread, milk — come to represent something absolutely terrifying, particularly to Sophie. It's a location where a completely random act of violence occurs," Harrison said. "I loved the challenge of how we were going to make this a menacing place. One of the key things I played with was the color palette. We intentionally made it a very dark, murky green, that brought a pallid, death-like color to people's skin."

"We've had people see the film, and later report that going into a real convenience store and seeing the security mirrors made them



Courteney Cox Arquette as Sophie in Greg Harrison's *November*.

feel like they were back in the movie."

Harrison's own model for the film was Nicolas Roeg's *Don't Look Back*, in which an art historian tries to repress memories of his young daughter's unexpected death by taking his grieving wife to Venice.

Machine dreams

November, like Harrison's first feature *Groove*, came from the frustrations of being a well-paid cog in an entertainment behemoth that takes forever to make

up its mind, then, often as not, passes on a project. It was during the development phase of just such a project, with *Doonesbury* creator Garry Trudeau, that he first met *November*'s star Courteney Cox.

"I was struck by her willingness to be so vulnerable, even in first meetings, and when I started working with her on the script, I realized that she has quite an emotional intelligence that isn't featured in *Friends*. She was really drawn to doing something radically different, and I loved the idea

of putting Courteney Cox in a role that was radically different, thinking of ways to transform her: cutting seven inches off her hair, no makeup, glasses, piercings. She came up with the idea that her character was traumatized and would have a shock of gray in her hair.

"With Courteney, it was the best of both worlds: a really well-known actress in an indie movie helped us, but also, because her work style's so down-to-earth, so personable, and so about the work — it just allowed this incredibly creative spirit to grow on the set that inspired the crew. It was her showing up every day, with no trailer, and laying down on the floor of an actual convenience store to get the shot, that set the tone."

Greg Harrison looks precisely like who he actually is, a 30-something ex-Catholic schoolboy from Detroit who's spent the better part of a decade shucking off his sheltered roots. Professing to be a "recovering Catholic," Harrison slyly confessed that he's returning to his nerdy roots in his next feature, *The Radioactive Boy Scout*. The film details the comic misadventures of a 16-year-old prodigy whose Eagle Scout project is to devise a working nuclear bomb. *Opens Friday.* ▼

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A winter's tale

Ingmar Bergman's final film

by David Lamble

In the prologue to *Saraband*, Liv Ullmann as Marianne is playing with a group of family snapshots, picking through the scattered photographs as if they were cards in a new version of solitaire she's inventing on the spot. Looking directly into the camera and addressing us as if we were old friends with whom she needed to catch up, Marianne confides, "Johan and I have had no contact, no contact at all, for many years."

"Yes, Marianne," I want to shout at the screen, "I remember the last time you and Johan were together. You were no good for each other. Don't make that mistake again."

The absurdity of a critic/fan recalling how helplessly he was once sucked down behind the slipstream of emotion generated by Ingmar Bergman's towering 1973 domestic drama *Scenes from a Marriage* hits me full force as I try to recall flickering images of a powerful, angry man, Johan (Erland Josephson), a university professor, cheating on his beautiful and much younger wife, Marianne. As I watch a screener tape from Sony Classics of the 2002-filmed sequel, *Saraband*, the air outside my open windows is heated, crowds of merry-makers are in a Carnival-like frenzy of Midnight madness, but inside I'm reliving a Nordic winter, where long silences are broken up by angry, focused recriminations.

Before she becomes a character in the story, Ullmann pulls out her trump card: a black-and-white publicity still recalling her radiant



Erland Josephson (left) as Johan, Liv Ullmann as Marianne in *Saraband*

beauty as the younger Marianne. "Myself, I'm still active in my profession, but at the pace I choose." Instantly, all my own obsessive pursuits of Scandinavian (male) beauty — the great-hair genes, the bone structure, the emotional detachment, disguising either simmering resentments or unquenchable sorrows — slap me upside the head, and quickly I recall Tom Hanks' famous line, "There's no homosexuality in Ingmar Bergman!"

No, there isn't, but what is there still packs quite a wallop.

When Marianne slips into Johan's summer house off a quiet lake in a very remote part of Sweden, she looks at us as if she knows she's making a fool of herself. But she tiptoes onto a sun porch where a now 86-year-old Johan has fallen asleep beneath a heavy book. Giving him a peck on the cheek, she smiles down at the startled man, who, true to form, gives

the Swedish version of "What the hell are you doing here? You should have phoned." The old lovers then have a long chat, and I finally scream out, "Get up, you old bastard, so I can read the subtitles!"

It is here that *Saraband*, a kind of orchestral piece divided like a boxing match into 10 rounds, kicks off with the fallout from what Johan's been up to since he dumped Marianne, inherited a chunk of money, quit his university job and proceeded to live as a country squire, ruling over a disgruntled maid, an angry adult son and a talented but emotionally frustrated musician granddaughter.

Johan admits he was a lousy father. The evidence we see before us is irrefutable. Henrik (Borje Ahlstedt), Johan's 68-year-old son, looks like a marshmallow who's been toasted, taken off the grill

page 41 ►

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A glorious invalid

The current state of classical music in America

by Philip Campbell

Classical Music in America - A History of Its Rise and Fall by Joseph Horowitz; W.W. Norton & Company, \$39.95

Summertime may be a little light on serious musical events, but who could imagine being stuck indoors anyway? If the *al fresco* concert scene isn't doing it for you, why not try the music-lover's equivalent of a good beach read: Joseph Horowitz's impressive new tome, *Classical Music in America, A History of Its Rise and Fall*.

At some 600 pages, it isn't likely to make it into too many duffel bags, but it is a compelling chronicle worthy of several perusals, and the paperback edition seems an unlikely future event.

Horowitz has been writing about music and working in the industry for most of his adult life, and he has won a place in the modest pantheon of insightful and communicative music critics who have actually exerted some influence on the field in which they toil, and which they so obviously love.

Starting with the major orchestras and cultural scenes of the late 19th-century in both New York and Boston, the author builds a compelling case for why serious music in this country reached an inevitable peak and has never fully recovered from the cult of personality and concert "events" that continues to maintain a stranglehold to the very present.

The book may be a slow starter — after all, some of the stories are being cleaned of an excessive layer of dust, and the petty jealousies and rivalries of a vanished age seem a trifle overwrought by the more businesslike standards of today. Still, Horowitz begins to weave his thesis into the record with persuasive insinuation.

Some of the stories may be tangential, but they are nonetheless entertaining, and what refreshment it is to visit a time when "high art" was the measure against which all creativity was judged.

Later chapters deal with the ongoing problem of "Euro-centrism" and the inherent snobbery and subliminal self-deprecation that holds American performers in thrall to a much older tradition that only occasions change on a

very limited basis.

Yet it is ironic, Horowitz emphatically notes, that it was the Europeans who first embraced American jazz, recognizing an important musical force and readily incorporating it into their symphonic and chamber repertoire.

This portion of the book leads to an intriguing and very disturbing look at racism and anti-Semitism in the arts. Actual cases are rarely cited, but hurtful criticisms and damaging reviews can tell a lot more about the denouncers than the denounced.

How shocking to come face to face with American icon Aaron Copland complaining about George Gershwin's glibness and realizing that he could pettily deny him a Pulitzer Prize; or to know that critics raged endlessly about the use of "Negro" melodies in Dvorak's *Symphony From the New World*.

Celebrity cult

The "threat" of jazz is dealt with but hardly settled, for Horowitz is much more concerned with the negative effect performers have had on the industry. Concertgoers flock to a famous conductor or singer or instrumentalist with little care for

the repertoire being played.

The impetus to act as little more than glamorous museum curators has not been helped by the period ranging from the late '40s through the '70s, when serious music was damaged by insular academics, writing more for each other than anyone else.

Leonard Bernstein is seen as something of a populist savior, with his passionate lectures and brilliant career, but he, too, was a singular legend, and certainly something of an industry unto himself.

Horowitz's concert production career with BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music) proved to him the need to move forward with a growing American repertoire and intense concentration on home-grown talent.

The purpose of any good history is to make it relevant, and Horowitz manages to juggle his own strong opinions with solid scholarship and entertaining storytelling abilities.

The rise and fall of American classical music may be sort of like the death of the American Theater — long and a little exaggerated. Glorious invalids both, they struggle to survive a little longer with

generosity of spirit, intelligence and easy musicality are here in spades.

DeRose is jazzed to be coming out here, where she'll share a double bill with singer Madeline Eastman at Stanford's Dinkelspiel Auditorium on Monday, August 1. She doesn't know who on the faculty she'll get as a drummer and bassist, but rest assured this accomplished artist will take it in stride. In an age of cookie-cutter cuties, she certainly seems like the real deal.

Tickets: (650) 725-2787;
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Dena DeRose

Arts cover

piano? "A very nice Yamaha grand." She says the manager who's run the hotel for 18 years is very nice, and everyone working there seems happy. The roster of jazz greats who have played there is impressive, pianists like Tommy Flanagan and Roland Hanna, and it certainly pleases her that her lover, guitarist Sheryl Bailey, will be playing there this December. The two, together since 1999, share an apartment in Long Island City, Queens, where they've lived for about five years. Previously, DeRose, who's from upstateinghamton, New York, had lived for 10 years in Manhattan. She'll be here teaching two sections of vocal students at the Stanford Jazz Workshop this month, and is clearly moved by the fact that some pianists have been coming to the workshop cum festival for 30 years. Mike Zisman, who was her first bassist in New York, is a shaker and mover there.

DeRose, who turned to singing when she contacted carpal tunnel syndrome (the kiss of death for pianists) and arthritis when she was 21, finds this to be a necessary outlet. "Music is my expression. If I can be honest through my music, I'm happy." That honesty comes through on her latest Max Jazz CD, *A Walk in the Park*. Her original song "Home (with You)" expresses her longing for her lover Sheryl: "Haven't seen you in 100 years, or so it seems." Both have heavy touring schedules, and DeRose teaches at the Netherlands' Groningen Conservatory of Music, SUNY Purchase, and Connecticut's Hartt School of Music.

Personal best

Her voice is warm, focused and distinctive. Every word she sings has a direct, unmaneuvered weight and force. She counts many great singers as influences: Shirley Horn, who's still with us, and Carmen McRae, who isn't. It was McRae who inspired her to

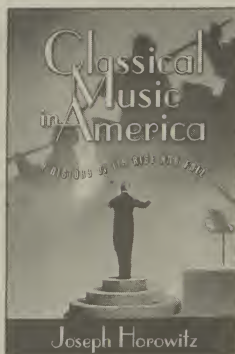


DeRose: 'If I can be honest through my music, I'm happy.'

choose the Carl Sigman-Jimmy Van Heusen "I Could've Told You," with its trenchant tune and lyric. DeRose's interpretation is stark, with piano alone, and utterly personal. When I mention this, she says that everyone comments on the song. "I couldn't sing this for many years, until a friend of mine, an ex, was dumped by the girl she was seeing — she was head over heels — and we all knew that she wasn't right for her."

She explores other aspects of love in unusual choices like

Jobim's "Meditation," which gets a light, buoyant reading, and Al Jolson's "All My Love." Her cover of Cole Porter's "I Concentrate on You" is a knock-out — obsessive in rhythm in parts, and full of lived knowledge. Perhaps even more impressive is her rendition of an Ellington rarity, "The Lonely Ones," which she does as a slow, sexy blues about people who seem to be descendants of Strayhorn's "Lush Life" crowd. They need that precious commodity, love, and can't seem to find it. But DeRose certainly seems to have, and her



the dedication and expertise of writers like Joseph Horowitz.

Enjoy the gossip namedropping as you read (everyone from Kurt Herbert Adler to Pinchas Zukerman), but take heed to Horowitz's warning and advice — there may be life in the art-form yet. ▼

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The unnecessary musical

'Harold & Maude' perplexes in Palo Alto

by Richard Dodds

After Eliza Doolittle's phonetic success in *My Fair Lady*, the song "I Could Have Danced All Night" expresses her joy far better than any spoken words could. That's when musicals work best, when a song seems an inevitable eruption of emotion. In the musical *Harold & Maude*, the characters often seem

to sing because it's been 10 minutes or so since the last song.

Based on the 1971 movie, *Harold & Maude* is a prime example of the unnecessary musical. Even with substantial revisions made since its premiere earlier this year at the Paper Mill Playhouse in New Jersey, the show seldom manages to be more than pleasant in its TheatreWorks production directed by Robert Kelley. That's not exactly the state to be

consistently evoked in a dark comedy centering on alienation and suicide.

Of course, the blows against conformity that sparked the movie can seem simple today, and even though costumes suggest the era is still the same, a cartoonish approach to most of the situations further reduces the material from relevancy. The music belongs to no period, further sending the show adrift.

The prime force behind musicalizing the movie is lyricist-librettist Tom Jones, whose place in history is assured by *The Fantasticks*. He's working with a new partner on *Harold & Maude*, the largely unheralded composer Joseph Thalken, whose range hopefully isn't defined by his work here. There was an endearing simplicity to the songs created by Jones and longtime partner Harvey Schmidt; simplistic is a better word for the Jones-Thalken output heard here.

In the Paper Mill production, Estelle Parsons played the role created on screen by Ruth Gordon. Both were close in age to the 80-year-old character they were playing. In the TheatreWorks production, Pamela Myers is some 20 years younger than Maude, and that does take a toll on the dynamics of her extreme May-December relationship with the 20-year-old Harold. But Myers has an agreeably natural quirkiness, and she never pushes at playing old.

It's harder to get a read on Eric Shelley's Harold, a morose kid looking for attention from his society-driven mother. He has a quirky look, but it doesn't translate into a performance of interesting facets. Alice Vienneau plays Harold's one-note mother with professional polish. All other roles



Pamela Myers and Eric Shelley, intergenerational in *Harold & Maude*.

are played by Alison Ewing and Daniel Marcus, and their comic flair earns some of the biggest laughs of the night.

Harold & Maude is subtitled "an intimate musical," and, in scope, it is. But intimacy also means a close personal relationship, and that's a bond this musi-

cal is unable to form with its audience. ▼

Harold & Maude will run at the Lucie Stern Theatre in Palo Alto through Aug. 14. Tickets are \$20-\$52. Call (650) 903-6000 or to theatreworks.org.

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Giving hattitude

'Crowns' at Marines Memorial Theatre

by Richard Dodds

Crowns is just 95 minutes, but when the topic is hats, hats, and more hats, it can be a long 95 minutes. Of course, as a Northern-born male of Anglo descent who doesn't wear hats or go to church, a musical about Southern black church ladies who are addicted to their hats won't have immediate resonance.

But the TheatreWorks production, now at Marines Memorial Theatre, earned praise from critics of all sorts during its Mountain View run, so its appeal is obviously not limited by specific demographics.

The show is basically a series of anecdotes interspersed with moments of gospel music. Adapted by Regina Taylor from the photo-essay book by Michael Cunningham and Craig Marberry, the songs and testimonials are hung very loosely on the story of a surly Brooklyn teenage girl sent to live with her grandmother in South Carolina after her brother is gunned down. With a scowl, she barely endures the paeans to fancy millinery and the underlying traditions until, without much motivation, she becomes a be-hatted convert.

There are moments of mild



Clinton Derricks-Carroll and Margarette Robinson in *Crowns*.

amusement as the grandmother and her friends explain the rules and rituals of hat buying, wearing, and showing off. But the concept shows its stretch marks when it is solemnly stated that wearing hats to church is a legacy of African ancestors who adorned their heads.

Yes, but hasn't every culture ever documented been partial to cranial adornment? And never

mind that the hats these ladies wear look more like something once worn by England's Queen Mum than anything found among the indigenous population of Africa during the slave-trade era.

The musical moments, when not presented in fragments, can enliven the proceedings. But the gospel music never quite elicits the passions of spiritual ecstasy, though Clinton Derricks-Carroll, who plays all the male roles, kicks up some dust as an electric-guitar-playing preacher man. Otherwise, it's a two-piece band that provides the thin accompaniment.

The cast is an appealing lot, including Margarette Robinson as the grandmother and Tiffany Thompson as her granddaughter. The others are Peggy Blow, C. Kelly Wright, Sheila Ellis, and Michelle E. Jordan.

Crowns, directed by Anthony J. Haney, is a pleasant diversion with aspirations to heavier meanings. But it's not nearly stirring enough to get me to throw my hat into the air — if I wore a hat. ▼

Crowns will run at Marines Memorial Theatre through Aug. 21. Tickets are \$35-\$60. Call 771-6900 or go to theatreworks.org.

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Picks of the litter

OutMusic 2005 awards are announced

by Jason Victor Serinus

This year's OutMusic Award Ceremony recognized an outstanding group of out musicians. For the first time, the expanded four-day OutMusic celebration migrated beyond its usual Big Apple enclave to the Chicago Cultural Center.

The culminating awards ceremony, co-hosted by Broadway and recording star Lea DeLaria and Chicago's cigar-smoking, in-your-face punk rocker Jinx Titanic, honored guitar legend June Millington, The Village People's cowboy Randy Jones, Connecticut radio producer/host Pamela Smith and longtime queer rocker Tim Cain. The quality and depth of offerings underscored the importance of out artists to the health of the LGBT community. Here's my take on the OutMusic 2005 Award recipients.

Outstanding New Recording – Chorus or Choir

San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus (sfgmc.org) – *Closer than Ever: The 25th Anniversary Concert*

With their closest competition

Philadelphia's daring feminist women's vocal ensemble SheWho, who combine challenging a cap-

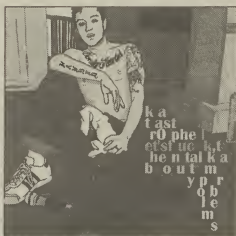
ella arrangements with political savvy, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus swept the field. *Closer than Ever's* selections, drawn from the chorus' first 25 years, are as impressive for their range as their beauty. The disc begins with the Mendelssohn psalm the chorus sang at its unexpected debut appearance on the steps of San Francisco City Hall the night gay Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone were assassinated. Paying tribute to the 242 SFGMC members lost to AIDS, selections feature guest appearances by *Tales of the City's* Armistead Maupin, the fabulous Sharon McKnight, and gay rights trailblazer CA Assemblyman Mark Leno. The exuberance, musicality, and diverse repertoire of the SFGMC singers serve as a model for LGBT choruses worldwide.

Outstanding New Recording – Instrumental

Jennifer Higdon (telarc.org) – *Cityscape & Concerto for Orchestra*

For the first time, the OutMusic awards honor a classical composer with major-label pedigree. Jennifer Higdon, 42, has been out since meeting her partner Cheryl in high school marching band. The accessible beauty and vitality

of the Philadelphia transplant's numerous finely crafted works earn her over 100 performances a year. Higdon's *Cityscape* tribute to Atlanta, performed by Robert Spano and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, is irresistible, its color, range, and visceral impact thrillingly conveyed in surround sound. The five-movement *Concerto for Orchestra* may prove a bit challenging, but careful listening provides a portal to the wealth of glorious new music available to those willing to venture beyond pat pop formulas.



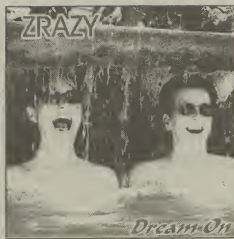
Outstanding Producer

Rocco Kaiyatos (Katastrophe) (katastrophetherap.com) – *Let's Fuck, Then Talk about My Problems*

Utilizing an impressive assortment of multi-tracking techniques, San Francisco MC/hip hopper Katastrophe thrusts his social awareness, self-preoccupation, macho posing, and take-no-prisoners defiance in your face. The FTM transgender deceives himself not concerning Bush, societal norms, cultural repression, and the challenges facing our youth. Although one can only hope that he talks about HIV before fucking, the breadth of Katastrophe's poetry and back-up will seduce far more than hip-hop aficionados.

Outstanding New Recording – Duo or Group

Zrazy (zrazy.com) – *Dream On*
Celtic jazz-duo Zrazy is wonderful. Maria Walsh's (vocals, flute, percussion) slightly throaty, hushed delivery is as seductive as Carole Nelson's (alto & soprano saxophone, piano & tin whistle) classy songs and whispered winds. Based in Ireland, Zrazy sings of love, life and nature with an understated veracity that distinguishes first-class musicians from



the rest of the pack. Winners of Irish, Billboard, GLAMA and Gold Disc awards (sometimes for music very different from jazz), Zrazy deserves to rise to the top.

Outstanding New Recording – Band

The Bobbleheads (thebobbleheads.com) – *Automatic Fun*

San Francisco's Bobbleheads offer a frequently upbeat mix with a retro rock 'n' roll sound. "37 Bus," the opening song on their indie effort, includes the lines, "Everyone is standing still, except for me, I'm dancing. I can walk around in the sunlight, everybody knows. That you're mine." With numerous gay references, the Bobbleheads' la, la, la songs about life and love do acknowledge some dark moments, but concern themselves far more with smiles.

Outstanding New Recording – Debut Female

Kitty Rose (kittyrose4country.com) – *Kitty Rose! Greatest Hits*

From her opening "Yeah Haw!" exclaimed for all it's worth, Kitty Rose lets you know that she can hold her own with the best. The California Cowgirl (aka Katharine Chase) writes most of her songs, sings fabulously, and plays a mean acoustic guitar. Some tracks, recorded live with full band, convey all the exuberance of artist and audience in full rapport. I don't know what's more impressive, Kitty's ability to transition from an upbeat celebrant to a touching, softer-voiced balladeer, or the unstoppable conviction that has motivated a 20-year career. Count me an instant fan of this superb artist.



OutMusician of the Year/OutSong of the Year

Scott Free (scottfree.net) – *They Call Me Mr. Free*

Displaying anger and defiance, arresting Chicago musician/activist Scott Free pulls no punches. In his winning OutSong, "Another Day of the Cruelty," he utters a rallying cry for oppressed gay youth, urging them to sue the pants off oppressive administrators and seek alternatives. In the biting "Disco Divas," he trashes artists whose mindless aping of straights leaves us partying away as second-class citizens. "Ronald Reagan's Funeral" recounts his silence around AIDS. Free delivers his own raw style of no-holds-barred, riveting musical activism.

Outstanding Songwriter

Rachel Sage (rachelsage.com) – *Ballads and Burlesques*

Beyond the little girl personage and campy outfits lies one smart cookie. New Yorker Rachel Sage's song "Sacrifice," about a young man who stands up to his oppres-

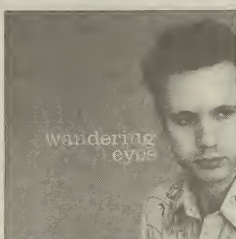


sive father, deserves its Indie Music Award. With lyrics, vocals, and pianism that speak with clear, soft-edged passion, the Stanford drama graduate and childhood ballerina takes on life, love, and suffering with a boundary-crossing, worldly perspective that commands the highest respect. Sounds great, too.

Outstanding New Recording – Female

Adrianne (adrimusic.com) – *10,000 Stories*

Boy, is this female songwriter/rocker/balladeer good! Winner of a pageful of awards including the USA Songwriting Competition, stage-sharer with Bonnie Raitt, Jackson Browne, Jeff Buckley, and many other notables, her song "Comets" (on this disc) graces the feature film *Eulogy* starring Ray Romano, Debra Winger, and Hank Azaria. Adrianne's great voice, naked honesty, and palpable yearning make listening and catching her on tour essential.



Outstanding New Recording – Debut Male

Dylan Rice (dylanrice.com) – *Wandering Eyes*

Chicago rocker Dylan Rice proclaims he's not the drama queen he used to be, but I remain unconvinced. Rice's youthful angst and autobiographical confessionalism will certainly appeal to rock lovers drawn to the driving guitar style and slightly tortured vocals that distinguish his impressive debut disc.



Outstanding New Recording – Male

Ari Gold (arigold.com) – *Space Under Sun*

Ari Gold isn't just out about being bisexual. A funk/soul artist of the first order, he's also delighted to display his shiny, smooth body and Jewish "Chai" medallion in every conceivable pose. The songs, mostly his own, are fabulous, the recording quality and spacey ambience of major-label quality. Ari's enhanced CD provides online lyrics and an enticing video that shows him lolling on the beach, flirting with his audience, and rubbing up against everything save a rubber duckie. This disc is more than fun; it's great. ▼

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ARTS

Bigotry kills

Noir classic 'Crossfire' out on DVD

by Tavo Amador

During Classic Hollywood's great film noir period from the early '40s to the mid-'50s, the genre was often used to explore social themes. In *Crossfire* ('47), anti-Semitism results in murder, and America was forced to look at the evils of bigotry in its society. Now out in DVD, it remains a powerful movie.

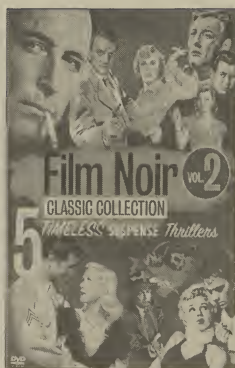
Set in Washington, DC, it begins with a man beating another

man, visible only as shadows on an apartment wall. The victim collapses, and his assailant and a third man flee. Soon, the cops, headed by Lt. Finlay (Robert Young, several years away from television acclaim as *Father Knows Best* and *Marcus Welby*), arrive. The victim is dead. While the investigation is proceeding, a soldier named Montgomery (Robert Ryan) knocks on the door. He says he's looking for his buddy, Mitch (George Cooper), but thinks he's in the wrong apartment. When he

realizes he's in the right place, he identifies the dead man as Samuels, someone he, Mitch, and a third man, Floyd (Steve Brodie), met at a bar earlier that evening. Samuels (Sam Levene) had invited them back to his place for more drinks. Mitch got sick and left. Montgomery and Floyd followed a few moments later, to make sure he was all right. Samuels was still alive, says Montgomery.

Finlay thinks Montgomery is covering for Mitch, who becomes the man the cops want. In a series of flashbacks, the events of the afternoon and evening are reconstructed. Mitch's army buddies, notably Keeley (Robert Mitchum), try to find him. They don't believe he could have killed Samuels. Keeley had just arranged for Mitch's wife to come to see him. The cops learn that Mitch had gone to a bar and met a "dance girl" named Ginny (the dynamic Gloria Grahame). Keeley realizes that it is imperative to confirm the time Mitch was with Ginny, and compare it to when the medical examiner thinks Samuels died.

Crossfire is less a whodunit than a why did he do it? It soon becomes clear who the killer is, but that doesn't make the movie less compelling. The anti-Semitism is shocking and manifested in many ways. Expressions like "Jewboy," "Sammy," and a mistaken assumption that Samuels had avoided military service are used



casually but menacingly.

Good mix

The performances are superb. Young is low-key, focused, and determined. He suggests a man who has seen the ugliness of the human heart. Mitchum conveys anxiety for his friend beneath a calm exterior. Cooper's sensitivity and artistic ambitions are touching. Grahame effectively mixes skepticism, tenderness, and anger in what could easily be a cliché role. Ryan is exceptionally frightening.

The movie was based on a novel, *The Brick Foxhole*, by future director Richard Brooks (*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Elmer Gantry*, *Sweet Bird of Youth*), which dealt with homophobia in the military. Censorship prevented the original theme from being filmed, and the substitution of anti-Semitism works fairly well. The set-up, however, makes more sense in the context of a gay subplot — Samuels having befriended Mitch at a bar, then inviting him and his buddies to his apartment, was a typical

scenario of the era. Also, much is made of Mitch's gentleness and artistic abilities, and how he and Samuels seemed to hit it off right away, which also suggests a homosexual connection. Finlay believes the motive "had to be inside the killer himself," a prescient suggestion of internalized homophobia and so-called "gay panic"-induced violence.

Coming so soon after the horrors of the Holocaust, *Crossfire*'s exposure of deadly bigotry among soldiers resulted in criticism that the movie was un-American. Director Edward Dmytryk and producer Adrian Scott were forced to testify before the notorious House Un-American Activities Committee. Dmytryk admitted to once having been a member of the American Communist Party, and was jailed for six months. He later recanted; after a two-year professional exile in England, he returned to work regularly in Hollywood. Despite the controversy, the movie earned Oscar nominations for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Supporting Actor (Ryan) and Best Supporting Actress (Grahame). It won none. The picture cost around \$200,000 to make and was shot in 20 days, but took in about \$2,500,000 at the box office. A few months later, the big-budget *Gentlemen's Agreement*, another look at anti-Semitism in America, was released, and it swept the Academy Awards. ▼

Cabrillo breaks new ground

Festival of contemporary music in Santa Cruz

by Jason Victor Serinus

Santa Cruz lies but a few hours south of San Francisco. Besides its beautiful beaches, adorable young surfers, famed boardwalk, and bountiful natural beauty, the area's annual Cabrillo Music Festival of Contemporary Music has won more awards for adventurous programming in contemporary music than any other festival of its kind.

With this year promising a bumper crop of premieres and two weekends of glorious music, it's hard to understand why so few B.A.R. readers undertake the pilgrimage to the former hippie haven. Ticket prices are reasonable, the atmosphere unbeatable, and the music frequently unavailable on recording. The only thing attendees have to fear at the Festival founded by the late great gay composer Lou Harrison is Cabrillo addiction.

America's longest-running festival of new and contemporary music opens its 43rd Anniversary Season in Santa Cruz on August 1. Under the direction of Marin Alsop, the most respected female conductor on today's scene, the programs for the two-week festival read like a lexicon of contemporary music greatness.

Take the festival's opening weekend. Held in the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, the concert on Friday, August 5 (8 p.m.) is dominated by the visually arresting, 22-year-old Dutch violinist/composer Marijn Simons. Already hailed as "The Dutch Mozart" and called "irresistible" by Mark Swed of the *Los Angeles Times*, the flamboyant European sensation witnesses the world premiere of the orchestral version of his *Secret Notes* before soloing in Scottish composer James MacMillan's dark-hued violin concerto, *A Deep But Dazzling Darkness*.

After the orchestra performs Frank Zappa's wild *Be-Bop Tango*, pianists Paul Barnes and Emily Wong appear for the US premiere of Simons' double piano concerto, *A Ti Te Toca*. Judging by Alsop's track record for presenting quality premieres, the evening should prove a knock-out.

Two of our greatest contempo-



Conductor Marin Alsop

rary composers, Philip Glass and Steve Reich, dominate Saturday evening's concert at 8 p.m. Native American flutist R. Carlos Nakai and pianist Paul Barnes present the West Coast premiere of Glass' Piano Concerto No. 2, *After Lewis and Clark*, which paves the way for the superb Tapestry vocal ensemble performing in Reich's classic *Tehillim*. Nor would I scoff at the West Coast premiere of Kevin Puts' *River's Rush*; the young composer, once in residence with the California Symphony, has won the prestigious Rome Prize and is now composing for percussionist Evelyn Glennie and the needs-no-introduction Yo-Yo Ma.

Sunday's events include a free Family Concert at 1 p.m. that offers the world premiere of Libby Larsen's *All Around Sound*. Our world-renowned locals, the Kronos Quartet, their sound slightly altered by the presence of a guest cellist, present two West Coast premieres, Steve Reich's classic *Different Trains*, and music by Rahul Dev Burman and Bay Area treasure Terry Riley (8 p.m.).

Guitar god

On Friday, August 12, the music migrates to Santa Cruz's Kuumbwa Jazz Center, where jazz electric-guitar god Marc Ribot holds forth solo (8 p.m.). Ribot reappears in Civic Auditorium Saturday, August 13, at 8 p.m. for the world premiere of a work written especially for him, the revised version of Stewart Wallace's

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Speech drafts, appointment books, and photographs tell the story of the first openly gay man elected to the SF Board of Supervisors. Harvey Milk represented people formerly silenced and ignored, and the outrage caused by his assassination galvanized the international LGBT community as never before.

This symbol of the LGBT community's emergence as a political force is but one of the many treasures brought to life...

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Charo

◀ Arts cover

thused, "It's the best CD I've ever done. It's mostly heavy-duty guitar, but I sing on one track. It has a lot of songs for dancing. When you hear it, you have to dance."

Cuchi cuchi to you

Charo explains the genesis of her trademark wiggle and catchphrase "cuchi cuchi," which she dutifully spells for me. "I got it from my grandma's dog named Cuchillo [Spanish for 'knife'], who I used to play with when I was a little girl in Spain. This dog was my friend, but Cuchillo is hard for children to say. When I said 'cuchi,' the dog wiggled all over. I copied the dog, and everybody laughed."

As the young bride of band-leader Xavier Cugat, Charo arrived in America and "cuchi-cuchied" her way to fame. "Cuchi cuchi showed me the way to the bank, but guitar and music are my passions."

"At 17, I was performing in Las Vegas with Johnny Carson and Buddy Hackett, then I became a

headliner in the '70s." A staple on the Vegas strip for decades, Charo says, "I know Las Vegas better than my kitchen." She's seen many changes over the years in Vegas, not all of which have been good ones.

"Before, people came to the shows looking very elegant. Now they wear T-shirts and sneakers. They all need wardrobe people. And there's too much Cirque du Soleil. There's no imagination. If they do one more Cirque du Soleil show, that's it. I don't believe so much in mirrors and smoke."

Charo has worked with her share of personal idols. "Sammy Davis, Jr. was one of the greatest performers in the world. And Dean Martin — I appreciated his taste. I loved Elvis Presley, and I adore Whitney Houston. I hope she gets it together, because her voice and presence are great."

As a television icon of the '70s, Charo is happy to ride the current wave of retro-celebrity chic, having guest-starred on *That '70s Show* and appeared on the reality show *The Surreal Life*.

Plans for her own reality show are in the works, but she's holding

out for an original concept. "VH-1 offered me a reality show just like *The Osbournes*, but they're all the same now. I'd love to do a reality show because there's no script and I love doing comedy, but I love touring even more."

She's looking forward to her first public appearance in San Francisco in a decade, and Charo is especially proud of her gay following. "They are my best friends. A world without gays would be in trouble. Hollywood wouldn't be Hollywood without gays. Art, imagination, creativity is all from gays. I also have imagination, creativity and ants in my pants. I can't sit still."

Hyperactivity has kept Charo young. Official biographies list her birthyear as 1941, but according to the Internet Movie Database, in 1977 she claimed a clerical error on her birth certificate, and a judge ruled that she was born in 1951.

Judicial intervention aside, Charo says, "If you have a young mind, you stay young. I dance all the time, and I run three miles each night after a show to unwind. Monday through Friday, I eat well, but on Saturday and Sunday I'm a garbage disposal — I eat ice cream, chocolate, beer, anything."

In 1978, Charo married Swedish television producer Kjell Rasten. Their son Shel plays guitar in the LA speed-metal band Treazen. Now there's an interview I'd love to do some day: "Son of Charo." ▼

Charo! Saturday, August 6, 7 p.m. at the Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave., SF. Tix (\$35, \$50, \$75) at City Box Office: (415) 392-4400, www.cityboxoffice.com Info: www.koshercomedy.com



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Scanning the tube during dark days

by Victoria A. Brownworth

We warned you back at May Sweeps that it was going to be a reality summer, yet our beloved keeps scanning the tube for new programming that *isn't* a reality show. We listen to the grousing about "Doesn't anyone write anymore?" and, "What about the actors?" (the actors themselves are grousing: *Nightline* had a short segment last Friday on how many TV actors are turning to theatre because the reality shows are taking the space usually reserved for talented actors) and watch as our beloved surfs the channels desperate for some non-reality.

Alas, this is a summer of true TV discontent: If you want drama, catch up on fantastic shows you may have missed last season like ABC's *Lost* or NBC's *Law & Order: Trial by Jury*, or scoot over to cable for *Six Feet Under* or *The Shield*.

We can recommend two new reality series. *Brat Camp* debuted last week on ABC. It is exactly what the title implies: bad, privileged punks in an Outward Bound-style program meant to humanize them. Kind of the reverse of the still-repulsive-after-six-seasons *Big Brother*. We hope the kids win.

Speaking of repulsive reality shows, for once a network did the right thing and bowed to public outcry over an upcoming reality series, pulling it. When we first saw the promos on ABC for *Welcome to the Neighborhood*, scheduled to debut this week, we were pretty appalled. The concept: several "marginalized" (black, Latino, queer) families compete for a house in a white-only suburban cul de sac a la *Desperate Housewives* Wisteria Lane. Of course, the neighbors don't really want them there. But it's supposed to be about changing perceptions.

How many ways can one cringe? We couldn't even decide what aspect of this show was most repugnant, the white folks' fear factor or the competition itself. Fortunately for the viewer, ABC pulled this *Lord of the Flies* series last week after much complaining from the Right about the queers, and the Left about the competition. Bravo!

Cheers to NBC for the controversial new reality series *Law Firm*, which debuts tonight, July 28. This is arguably the best such series since *Survivor* first hit the airwaves. Young Turk attorneys vie for a quarter-million prize and a seat in a law firm as they try increasingly more difficult cases. Think *The Apprentice* meets *Law & Order*. Definitely worth a peek, particularly for the insider view of all aspects of the justice system.

Also worth a look is the truly controversial new drama series *Over There*, which apes the current reality of the Iraq war to rather devastating effect. This isn't some slap-happy *F Troop*, it's gritty life and death in the '60s *Combat* tradition. The no-win sense of war is well-captured by a diverse ensemble team.

The series debuted July 27 on FX, and was created by Stephen Bochco, who brought real cops to TV with *NYPD Blue*, and whose foray into another variation on that theme with last season's superb *Blind Justice* was further proof that he can make any formerly hackneyed theme fresh, including the old chestnut of the war show. Oh, and did we mention — this show is *written and*

acted.

Over There is the first series to deal with a war still in progress, which brings a hyper-reality to the drama which many viewers may find disturbing. But, as with *NYPD Blue*, Bochco pulls no punches. As on *Blue* in the early days and *Lost* last season, the cast of little-known actors adds a verisimilitude to the drama that makes viewers feel they are truly *Over There*.

Terror strikes

Alas, the big reality series of the summer continues to be terrorism. No one was killed in the failed bombings in London on July 21, but an innocent man was shot to death in the Stockwell tube station in front of horrified passengers on July 22 as he fled from police. All, of course, captured on video for TV.

The same day, we watched something extraordinary on TV:

The British homeland security detail gave a thorough briefing to the public which should serve as a model for the US in how to deal with terrorism. The briefing was so detailed that the CBS reporter giving commentary involuntarily noted that "total transparency" was the order of the day, as im-

pressed by it as we were.

Imagine that in Washington. We applaud the attitude the Brits have taken to this series of terrorist attacks in recent weeks. From the

Jack and Jane on the street to the hierarchy of Scotland

Yard and the special terrorism units, the attitude of pulling together, fighting a common enemy, and trying to help each other through a rough patch has come through on the British broadcasts.

The July 22 briefing was typical of this: officials noted that the investigation was proceeding quickly, which meant that it

would not always be possible to keep Britons apprised of every detail as it happened, but every effort would be made to do so. There was also an appeal to find those responsible for the July 21 attacks, with video photos of the suspects, numbers of the police and the terrorism task force given. It was a general plea for a societal effort, with a determined request not to lay blame on certain groups, nor allow fear or outrage to turn to violence and reprisal.

Terror was not to vacation for long after the new attacks in London.

On July 23, terrorists claiming association with al-Qaeda set off a series of bombs within a two-mile radius outside a luxury hotel and a popular coffee-shop in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheik. More than 90 people were confirmed dead, at least 119 people wounded, Egypt's Interior Ministry said. The fear in the tourist town was palpable in TV reports, hysterical tourists literally running for their lives.

The outrage soon followed.

Locals decried the bombing of tourist sites as an attempt to disrupt the Egyptian economy and throw the country into turmoil. There was no solidarity with the terrorists from any quarter.

Iraq was also the site of numerous attacks last week. More than 200 people were slaughtered in three days in Iraq in a series of devastating suicide and car bombings. More than 80 were killed outside a mosque. The carnage continues without abatement, and there seems no effort to quell, contain or even decry the insurgency. It's the lead on every newscast, yet no one is posing the question: Why are we there?

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf had a clear answer for the Brits, Americans and Iraqis on terror: military and governmental crackdown. Out with free speech and religious freedom. As Musharraf told ABC's senior correspondent (clearly being groomed to succeed Barbara Walters, right down to the elegant head-scarf) Cynthia McFadden

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From July 15, 2005, San Francisco Chronicle

After one year investigation State finds no discrimination by Castro bar owner

State investigators have cleared a Castro neighborhood bar owner of allegations that he discriminated against customers and potential employees because of race and gender.

A diverse group of investigators from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control interviewed witnesses and conducted undercover operations over the course of a year at two bars owned by Les Natali, said John Carr, spokesman for the department.

"We received complaints...investigated the complaints and were not able to substantiate the complaints. So that is the conclusion of the investigation," Carr said.

The state investigation started after Natali applied for a liquor license for a third bar, the Pendulum, which is across the street from SF Badlands and is patronized mostly by African Americans. Several people protested that application and complained of discrimination at Natali's other bars.

The finding means Natali can have a license for the Pendulum, and the department put three conditions on that license: that he not discriminate, that his employees complete a discrimination training course and that he hang a sign by the door saying the business does not discriminate.

Natali has agreed to meet with those who have accused him of discrimination at Badlands, and former Mayor Willie Brown and attorney Scott Emblidge will mediate that dispute.

The management and staff of SF Badlands wish to thank the thousands of people in San Francisco and throughout the Bay Area for their continued patronage and overwhelming support.

OUT&ABOUT

Calendare by Mark Mardon



"Venera," an image from Willow's trickster imagination.

Jaguar Magician

The artist named Willow writes: "Something is happening in our world, a quickening, a community of artists are collaborating to bring beauty and help transform our culture. Without imagination and art we would live in a cold, dark world."

How true, and without myth makers, we would live in a stark, grim, technocratic society. Fortunately we have those who embrace magic to challenge the dry bureaucrats, technocrats, theocrats and other cats with new myths for a modern age, dipping not into Biblical lore for insight, but delving into secret treasures of multi-ethnic, multi-dimensional mythologies, conjuring up new stories and artworks to enchant our souls in an otherwise soulless age.

This Thursday, August 4, at Blue Gallery (731 Polk Street at Eddy), sculptor, painter and performance artist Willow will cast a sacred circle and consecrate his magical, mystical faerie installation, "El Vuelo del Mago Jaguar" ("The Flight of the Jaguar Magician"), a temple/art space for mystical inspiration and a portal to other consciousness.

Says Willow: "When a culture, such as Queer Culture, loses its mythologies, its stories, it is marginalized, discriminated against, and harassed by mainstream influences. In past times same-sex loving people have been revered, considered magicians, even to transcend gender or be epicene people. We were the edge-working magicians. However, as queer people were stripped of their mythological base over the last millennia, they have been ridiculed, tortured and murdered by societies which came to curse such magical lifestyles."

Willow, who is tall, thin, ethereal and gifted with esoteric insight, embodies an ancient kind of queer shamanism. He's the epitome of the gester, the one who could divert the king's attention from war. He's an alchemist in the old sense, transforming darkness into light. He's a gentle spirit with a fierce warrior's determination to change the course of civilization. For that, he has to be more powerful than those who control the flow of guns and butter. He has to create and control the flow of myth against the prevailing electronic media assault.

"I wanted to create a new mythological story that could be shared with each other, our children and the larger society," Willow says. During his recent artist retreat in Nayarit Mexico, he conceived more than 18 paintings to visually reveal the story of the Jaguar Magician, showing the path of initiation for a queer/two-spirit boy to become a healer and spiritual leader.

"Our magic is needed now more than ever," Willow declares. He wants to nurture the Queer Spirit with rituals animating sex/pleasure/beauty magic in the way of the trickster. He'll bring an array of altar-art to the ritual invocation and reception from 6 to 10 p.m., and make an offering at 8 p.m. accompanied by Lucia Comnes of Kitka and Bradley Blalock on live marimba, violin and voice. Willow invites all to join the art, be art, to flower and adorn yourselves for the New Moon in Leo. "The Theatre has begun," he says, "and you are part of the cast of dreamers." ▼



Ethel Merman will belt out songs at "Slurp!," a benefit for OUCH!, the organization urging gay men to get Hepatitis vaccinations. See Saturday.

Fri 29

Inga Muscio @ A Different Light

Inga Muscio, the author of *Cunt: A Declaration of Independence*, reads from her second book, *Autobiography of a Blue-Eyed Devil*, in which she explores how dominant, mainstream society dictates history through the perpetuation of male white supremacy while keeping the reader captivated with down to earth humor and intelligence. Free. 7pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. (at 18th). Info: 415-431-0891; www.adl-books.com

The BS Show @ Jon Sims Center

The BS Show, hosted by comedians Betsy Salikind & Bridget Schwartz, with guests Aundre the Wonderwoman (July 29 & 30), Nick Leonard (July 30), and Brent Weinbach (July 29). Featuring old favorites, new material, and an emphasis on more theatrical pieces. \$10-\$20 sliding scale. Fri. & Sat., July 29 & 30 at 8:30pm. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. Res: 415-554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

HEN! The Musical @ NOHspace

HEN! The Musical — an original production created and directed by Margery Fairchild, composed by Jesse Lovejoy Baldwin & Margery Fairchild. HEN! weaves eight characters into a surreal historical collage. The performance is a stylized expression of "magical realism" as well as a metaphorical representation of current social issues, particularly of reproductive freedom. \$15-\$20 (Thursdays are pay what you can). Plays July 21-24 and 28-31. Thu.-Sat. 8pm, Sun. 7pm. NOHspace, 2840 Mariposa St. (Project Artaud). Tix: 415-621-7978; www.henthemusical.com

Slow Falling Bird @ EXIT on Taylor

Preview: Crowded Fire Theater Company presents Christine Evans' *Slow Falling Bird*. An explosive, surreal portrait of refugees and prison guards in Australia's immigrant detention camps. As the tide of refugees fleeing from war-torn parts of the world grows, Evans asks us to explore the question of how we take them in — or leave them on the outside. Directed by Crowded Fire Artistic Director Rebecca Novick. Previews on July 23, 25, 28 & 29; Opens July 30; Closes Aug. 20. Runs Thu., Fri. & Sat., Aug. 4-20. 8pm. \$18-\$25 (\$30 Opening Night). Pay-what-you-can previews. EXIT on Taylor, 277 Taylor St. Info: 415-4675-5995; www.crowdedfire.org

Lamplighters/The Gondoliers @ YBCA

The world famous Lamplighters of San Francisco present the delightful Gilbert & Sullivan operetta *The Gondoliers*. The plot involves a pair of handsome Venetian gondoliers and a mix-up of identities at birth. Gilbert skewers issues of social equality and the class system with his usual bril-

liant witty lyrics. Lamplighters is now in its 53rd season in SF under the direction of Barbara Heroux. Featuring a 50-member cast and the 21-piece Lamplighters Orchestra under the baton of music director Baker Peoples. \$32-\$44 (discounts for seniors, students, children; Thu., July 28 is pay what you can night). Preview Fri., July 22. Open Sat. July 23 at 8pm. Runs thru July 31 at YBCA in SF and Aug. 4-6 at Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek. Tix: 415-978-2787 (SF) or 925-943-7469 (Walnut Creek). Info: www.lamplighters.org

Terese Genecco/Drunk With Love @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center's 2005 In Concert Series, "Now and Then," presents Terese Genecco in the world premiere of *Drunk with Love—A Tribute to Frances Faye*, directed by Mark Gagné with musical direction by Amy Engelhardt. Bay Area Cabaret 2003 Entertainer of the Year Terese Genecco, backed by her "little big band," blends her own incredible talents with the wit, wisdom and wonder of Frances Faye. \$15-\$28. Runs thru Aug. 14. Shows on Fri.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. Tix: 415-861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

Whoop-Dee-Do! @ NCTC

Extended thru Aug. 14: New Conservatory Theatre Center presents the musical extravaganza *Whoop-Dee-Do!*, directed by Ed Decker, with musical direction by Michael O'Dell and choreography by Tom Segal. Conceived/created by Charles Catane, Howard Crabtree, Dick Gallagher, Peter Morris and Mark Waldrop. \$20 Wed.; \$26 Thu. & Sun.; \$28 Fri.; \$32 Sat. Showtimes 8pm Wed.-Sat.; 2pm Sun. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. near Market. Tix/info: 415-861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

Art Exhibits

@ SF LGBT Center

Artists get great exposure at the SF LGBT Community Center where currently three distinctive exhibits are featured. **Dykes, Two Photographers: The SF Dykes Marches** showcases the work of Jane Philomen Cleland and Cathy Cade. Cleland photographed the initial Dyke March in Washington D.C. in 1993, and every SF march since. Cade began photographing the SF Dyke March in 1996. The exhibit of their work on the 3rd floor will be up until August 13. A concurrent exhibit of their Dyke March photos shows at the SF GLBT Historical Society through Dec. 31, 2005. **War on Labels**, a group show running through Aug. 13 on the 2nd and 4th floors of the Center, features works by Tina Butcher, Heather Catalinich, and Lauren Anderson. They examine the societal wars and stigmas attached to sexual orientation, gender, intimacy, and sex work, using photo, video, and installation. This Saturday, July 30th will be the final day to view the **2nd Annual Fresh Meat in the Gallery** exhibit, a groundbreaking visual art display by transgender, intersex, and genderqueer artists. This unique exhibition creates a visual dialogue about gender, the body, and society. It initiates an open discourse with

and about subjects often left unseen or un-discussed, both within the queer community and in society at large. It can be admired in Gallery 301, at the SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: www.sfgcenter.org

Visual Aid Exhibit @ Space 743

Recently opened: *Iconography and Transformation*, a Visual Aid group exhibition. The show, held in conjunction with Visual Aid's "Sweet 16" celebration, runs thru August 13 at Space 743, an 1100 square foot exhibition space located at The Clay Studio, 743 Harrison Street (between 3rd & 4th streets). Gallery hours: Wed.-Sat., 12 noon-5pm. Info: 415-777-9080 (Space 743); claystudio@aol.com; www.visualaid.org

Rock Out w/out Yr Cock Out @ Edinburgh Castle

Special Rock Out w/out Yr Cock Out night in support of Camp Trans! Performances by Julia Serano, Lipstick Conspiracy, Storm Florez, Transition, J Cub Perez, Shawna Virago and more. All proceeds go to Camp Trans, the annual protest against the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival's policy that bars transsexual women from attending. \$5-10 (sliding scale). July 29 at 9pm. Edinburgh Castle (950 Geary). Info: Camptrans.org

Sat 30

Slurp! @ The Edge

Slurp! Lick 'em if ya got 'em! Celebrity disease trivia and the bodacious vocal stylings of Ethel Merman! \$8 beer bust benefiting OUCH! (Organizing Up Communities against Hepatitis). If you are a man who has sex with men you should get the Hep A & B vaccinations. OUCH! intends to remind you to get your three shots over several months. OUCH! offers free vaccinations at many queer street fairs and events, administered by cute doctors and hunky orderlies. Hot! Slurp! happens Sat., July 30, 4-8pm, at The Edge, 18th @ Collingwood.

Barbarella @ Midnight Mass/Bridge Theater

Join Peaches Christ in saluting Jane Fonda's widescreen space opera *Barbarella: Queen of the Galaxy* (1968), with special sci-fi inspired Drag-Queen Roller Derby in a battle of good vs. evil. Mandatory release of liability forms must be signed & presented for admission. Midnight. Landmark's Bridge Theater, 3010 Geary Blvd. Info: www.peacheschrist.com

PersuAsian @ Studio Z

PersuAsian, a Queer Asian Girl/Asian Boy dance party, celebrates its one year anniversary. *PersuAsian* is not just a dance club, but an organization that takes the lead in bridging relationships throughout the diverse Asian & Pacific Islander (API) community. Co-hosted with GAPA (Gay Asian Pacific Alliance), and sponsored by the A&PI Queer Women Transgender Coalition, API Wellness Center, Rainbow Koi (first Queer SF Bay Area Dragon Boat Team), TriKone, and UCSF TEPOT. *PersuAsian* was created to provide a space that celebrates the diversity of API sexualities and culture. Hosted by MC Tita Ada. Performance by Helwa (taiko drummers). DJs: Blacky, Emancipation, K-Bug, Suresh. 9pm-3am. Studio Z, 314 11th St., at Folsom. Info: www.asiangirlasianboyproduction.com

Habitat Restoration @ Corona Heights

Join the Randall Museum, Gay & Lesbian Sierrans, and Friends of Corona Heights Habitat Restoration in the monthly work party weeding out non-natives, maintaining trails, and keeping the hill healthy for birds, insects and other native wildlife. Meet 10am on the north side (parking lot on south side) of the Randall Museum, located at end of Museum Way off Roosevelt Way. Dress in layers, wear hat, sunscreen & sturdy shoes. Bring water. Tools & disposable gloves provided (due to possible oak contamination). Info: Randall Museum, 415-554-9600 x 16; www.randallmuseum.org

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans @ Big Basin Redwoods

Join Gay & Lesbian Sierrans for a "Big Basin Redwoods Romp," a moderately strenuous 11-mile hike that begins and ends at Park Headquarters, starting out on the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail and descending to Berry Creek Falls. After lunch return to HO using the picturesque Sunset Trail. Meet for carpools at the SF Safeway (Church & Market) at 8:15am. Departure 8:30am sharp. Bring lunch, water, money for gas, layered clothing. Carpooling strongly recommended. Only heavy rain cancels. Info: www.glsihikes.org

Docent Lecture: 'Artwear' @ Legion of Honor

Docent Peggy Gordon discusses the current exhibition, *Artwear: Fashion & Anti-Fashion*. Resolutely anti-fashion, wearable art is clothing made by artists whose canvases are textiles and garments they make themselves. Rooted in the mid-20th century craft revival and the hippie and women's movements, and influenced by textiles and garment forms from a variety of non-Western cultures, artists working in this discipline produced stunning objects. The exhibition



Leather/kink folk in town for the *Up Your Alley Street Fair* this weekend are invited to Mark I. Chester's studio for a free digital pix. See Saturday.

showcases the evolution of wearable art from its hippie beginnings to the present. Lecture at 1pm Sat., July 30. Show runs thru Oct. 30. \$8 gen'l adm. (senior/youth discounts) + \$2 surcharge for Artwear. Lincoln Park (entrance at 34th Ave. & Clement St.). Info: 415-863-3330; www.le-gionofhonor.org

Free Digital Pix

@ Mark I. Chester Studio

Famed San Francisco kink photographer Mark I. Chester is offering a free digital pix to anyone who comes to his studio at 1229 Folsom St. in SF this Sat. & Sun. from noon-7pm. Just one half block away from the Dore Alley Fair. Additional pix for donation. Drop in. No appt. necessary. Portraits of SF leathermen & others on display. Info: 415-621-6294; mchester.best.vwh.net

Sun 31

Up Your Alley Fair @ Dore Alley

The *Up Your Alley Fair*, which takes up all of Dore Alley and spills out onto Folsom Street attracts leather people and their admirers from near and far, with folks arriving from points around the Bay and beyond. Up Your Alley, along with the much bigger Folsom Street Fair (Sept. 25, 2005) and the official Magnitude party (Sept. 24) helps to raise funds for the AIDS Emergency Fund/Breast Cancer Emergency Fund, Stop AIDS Project, Quan Yin Healing Arts Center, Healing Waters, Positive Resource Center, Project Open Hand, Dolores Street Community Services, Lyon Martin, PAWS, New Leaf, GLBT Historical Society, and The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. The fun happens 11am-6pm. Info: www.folsomstreetfair.com/alley/

'Fusion' @ The Factory

Friction Events presents "Fusion," the official Up Your Alley T-Dance, with DJ Jack Reina (NYC). Fusion happens Sun., July 31, from 6pm till 2am. Right after the Up Your Alley Fair. This is event is a benefit for Folsom Street Events. 525 Harrison. \$15 advance/\$25 day of event. Tix/info: Powerhouse & Medium Rare Records; www.frictionevents.com/tix

Mon 1

Help Is On The Way XI @ Palace of Fine Arts

The Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation presents Help Is On The Way XI — A Centennial Celebration of the Music of Julie Styne and Harold Arlen. Benefiting five Bay Area AIDS Service Agencies: Center for AIDS Services, Oakland; Meals of Marin; Shanti; Positive Resource Center; UCSF AIDS Health Project. A black-tie gala featuring excerpts from: *Funny Girl*; *Gypsy*; *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*; *Peter Pan*; *Bells Are Ringing*; *Sugar*; *Lorelei*; *A Star is Born*; *Three Coins in the Fountain*; *The Wizard of*

Oz; *Blues in the Night*; *Stormy Weather*; *That Old Black Magic*; *Come Rain or Come Shine*; and *Singin' in the Rain*. Performed by: Debby Boone (Grammy & Academy Award-winning recording star & actress); Cate Capin, Gary Franco & Curtis Collins (world champion theatrical dance champs); Mary Jo Catlett (B'way's Hello Dolly!), Pajama Game; TV's Differet Strokes); Carole Cook (B'way's Radio Gals, 42nd Street; TV star); Nancy Dussault (B'way's Carouse!, Into the Woods; TV's Too Close for Comfort); Dorian Harewood (B'way's Two Gentlemen of Verona; TV's Roots I & II & Seventh Heaven); Tim Hockberry (blues/cabaret); Sony Holland (jazz/cabaret); Lainie Kazan (B'way's My Favorite Year; *Funny Girl*; screen's My Big Fat Greet Wedding); Lorna Luft (B'way's Promises, Promises; TV's The Judy Garland Show); Meg Mackay (jazz/cabaret); Pamela Meyers (Tony nominee for Company; TV's St. Elsewhere; Major Dad); Jane Russell (screen legend for The Outlaw, The Paleface, Gentlemen Prefer Blondes); Mark W. Smith (TV's Port Charles; Days of Our Lives); Kevin Spirtas (B'way's A Chorus Line; TV's Days of Our Lives); and Paula West (cabaret, jazz). Honorary Co-Chairs: Senator Barbara Boxer, Senator Diane Feinstein, Assemblyman Mark Leno, Jill Eikenberry, Michael Tucker & Harry Denton. Producers: Joe Sella & Ken Henderson. Director: David Galligan. Musical Director: Ron Abel. \$75 show only, \$150 and up for show & cast party. 5:30-7:30pm pre-show gala reception & extensive Silent Auction (complimentary martini bars, wine tastings & hors d'oeuvres); 8pm performance; 10:15-11:45pm post-show champagne & dessert party with the cast. The Palace of Fine Arts Theater, 3301 Lyon St. Tix/info: 415-273-1620; www.helpisontheway.org

AfroSolo Arts Festival XII

@ Sargent Johnson Gallery

The AfroSolo Theatre Company celebrates its 12th annual AfroSolo Arts Festival, showcasing visual art, live jazz and theater at three locations through the month of August. Opening tonight with the AfroSolo Arts Festival 12's Visual Arts Exhibition show titled "...And They Were Fruitful", (A Dedication to the African Diaspora), featuring hand carved, figurative wood sculpture by Nena St. Louis. In her works, Ms. St. Louis often draws from the inner feminine strength of African women and the Dogon sculpture of Mali, West Africa. Opening reception on Thu., Aug. 11. Free gallery open Mon.-Sat., 12 noon-5pm. African American Art & Culture Complex, 762 Fulton St. Info: 415-771-AFR0 (2376); www.afrosolo.org

Tue 2

Charo Look-a-like Contest @ Trannyshack

Heklina shares the stage spotlight with celebrity drag queen icon Charo (scheduled to appear in concert at Herbst Theatre on Aug. 6, courtesy of Kung Pao Kosher Comedy Presents). Charo appears at Trannyshack

this Tue. Aug. 2nd to judge the "Charo Look-a-like Contest" Special time! The contest begins at 10pm sharp! Doors open at 9pm — be there early! Open vodka bar between 9 & 10pm! The contest will be followed by the regularly scheduled Trannyshack show, "Interspecies Drag Night," with Rusty Hips in the spotlight at midnight. The Stud, 9th & Harrison. Info: www.trannyshack.com

Comics Gone Wild

@ Harvey's

Comics Gone Wild, a diverse evening of stand-up comedy and mayhem taking the Castro by storm. Hosted by Ronn Vigil with Pippil Lovestocking, Mari MacGibbon, Yayne Abeta and special guests. No cover. Full bar and menu available as well as drink specials during show. Tue., Aug. 2 at 9:30pm. Harvey's, 500 Castro (at 18th). Info: Harvey's, 415-431-4278; stoodup-sf@hotmail

Transgender Clinic Celebration @ Center for Sex & Culture

The Tom Waddell Health Center presents a 10th Anniversary Celebration of Tom Waddell Health Center's landmark Transgender Clinic, the first specialized clinic in the country offered by a city-funded public health department to provide pay-as-you-can primary medical and psychosocial care to an extremely at-risk population. Entertainment by pro-trans bands Lipstick Conspiracy and Andy Toon as well as songstress Veronica Klaus and Nicki Harris. Mood music by pianist Ben Keim and others. 6-10pm (intro of guests of honor at 7pm). Center for Sex & Culture, 398 11th St. (at Harrison). Info: Mark Freeman, Nurse Practitioner, 415-307-6290; Mary Monihan, RN, 415-355-7588.

Wed 3

Queer Swing

@ Queer Dance Studio

Queer Swing Series starts. 7pm basic 4-week series in the original Jitterbug-Lindy Hop plus Charleston. 8pm intermediate 4-week series. Wed., Aug. 3 at 7pm. Queer Dance Studio at Live Art Gallery, 151 Potrero Ave. (btwn 14th/15th streets). Info: 415-305-8242; www.queerjitterbugs.com

Thu 4

Revival Bingo @ MCC-SF

Vowing to give back as much as they get, The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc. present their award-winning "Revival Bingo" — a great night of fun and games, professional live entertainment, cash prizes, Drag Nuns and all for a great cause. Bingo Chair Nun: Sister Tilly Comes Again. Thu., Aug. 4 at 7pm. \$20 (includes 2 sets of BINGO cards for 8 rounds of BINGO). Where: Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), 150 Eureka St. Tix: All American Boy; www.acteva.com (keyword: BINGO). Info: www.theisters.org

Eye Sea: Passages

@ Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Berkeley

Free concert: Cal Performances presents Eye Sea: Passages, a performance by the students of the 2005 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp. The nationally acclaimed youth program, conceived by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, scouted middle school students, ages 11-14 for a summer program in ballet, jazz, modern and African dance. Eye Sea: Passages showcases the high-octane, 62-camper-strong results. Free. 3pm & 7pm. UC Berkeley campus, Bancroft Way at Dana Ave. Info: 510-642-9988; calperfs.berkeley.edu

Rise and Fall of the Monkey King @ EXIT Stage Left

Preview: El Gato Del Diablo presents the world premiere of *The Rise and Fall of the Monkey King* by Blair Gage. This searing satire tells the tale of a ruler gone mad, despised by his people, hell-bent on invading other nations without provocation, driven by a PR machine that loves Neil Diamond. Shawn Ferreira directs. Opens Fri., Aug. 5. Runs thru Aug. 20. 8pm Thu.-Sat. \$20 Thu.; \$22 Fri. & Sat. EXIT Stage Left, 156 Eddy St. Tix/info: 800-838-3006; www.el-gatotheatre.org

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Leather hot in Hayward

Good show by Alameda Co. Leather Corps

by Mister Marcus

The Alameda County Leather Corps (ACLC) scored another triumph this last weekend (July 22-24) with their Mr. and Ms. Alameda County Leather contests in Hayward, across the bay from San Francisco. The meet & greet took place on Friday night at the Turf Club, and the contest itself came on Saturday night and the Hill and Valley Club both in Hayward, California.

Each contest had only one entrant. Dr. Frank Parigi competed for the male title, and Ms. Lee Bonde strove for the female title. The theme of the contest was "Driven" and the fantasy performed by each contestant did indeed "drive" the crowd wild!

Since there was only one contestant for each title, each was required to get at least 60% of the total points available, and judges John Grisamore, "Trailer Trash Trixie" (aka Stephen Crowley), Tony Koester, Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt and Don Wood faced the challenge with an astute demeanor that resulted in a satisfying outcome for the contestants, the club, the leather community of the East Bay and the contestants themselves.

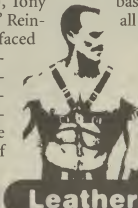
Jeff Tucker and "Skeeter" MC'd the Meet & Greet on Friday and Lenny Broberg and Donna Sachet MC'd the contest on Saturday. From all reports, Jeff and "Skeeter" did a great job at the Turf Club. On the other hand, at the contest, Lenny and Donna had the crowd in stitches throughout with their "can you top this?" antics, hurling luke-warm insults at each other and battling throughout for the microphones. Their "vocal dueling" was not of the "in" type — rather, the audience gave resounding ovations to their frenetic quibbling. Each was guilty of at least one faux pas, with Donna



Lee Bonde, left, is Ms. Alameda Leather County 2005 and (Dr.) Frank Parigi is Mr. Alameda County Leather 2005. They competed in Hayward, California last Saturday, July 23.

tumbling into a metal tool box on top of Judges' Boy Jorge Vieto, and Lenny almost single-handedly destroying a metal tool chest when the top cabinet fell off the base. Loud guffaws were heard all around.

A highlight of the evening came when ACLC President Dave Barker mounted the stage to announce the recipient of the Lee Bell Award, the highest accolade that can be given to a leather personality. The audience erupted in prolonged applause when



Joan Norry was announced as the choice of the ACLC Board of Directors. A past president of the ACLC, Joan is one of the most popular leather women in the San Francisco Bay Area and a constant worker and supporter of leather events throughout Northern California. Congratulations to Joan, held in high esteem in all quarters.

Tanya Hullana and Mark Paladini offered up entertainment and certainly mesmerized the audience with their musical renditions. All this came amid the silent auction bidding and the grand drawing for a round trip-ticket for

two to Cancún, Mexico, which was won by Michael, the partner of Jay Hemphill. Those two both worked hard to make the Leather Contingent in the Pride Parade 2005 a huge success!

The moment of truth arrived at almost midnight. The judges were unanimous in their decision and Alameda County has two new title holders: Mr. Alameda County Leather (Dr.) Frank Parigi and Ms. Alameda County Leather Lee Bonde. Congratulations to both! It was a great night in the East Bay. The ACLC did it again! It was flawless!

New Deaf Leather titles

In Washington, D.C. last weekend, the International Mr. and Ms. Deaf Leather Contests and the International Deaf Bear, Grizzly and Cub were also named in what must have been a nightmare for the judges, selecting six new titleholders! Details are very sketchy (venue, judges, prizes), but when the scores were tallied (who was the tally master?), Crystal Sisk of Baltimore, MD is Int'l. Ms. Deaf Leather, Michael Ratzlaff of Seattle, WA is Int'l. Mr. Deaf Leather, and Alex Leffers of Gaithersburg,

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, July 28

"A Night of Rough Trade, Boots & Porn Stars", a Pre-Dore Alley Party at The Powerhouse, presented by Troy Anicete, from 2100 to 2400. Sanford Hemmer and Ross Dierking will MC the party; Lenny Broberg will be the auctioneer. Scads of events. Be there!

Also, Mr. Edge Leather 2006 Contest at the Edge Bar, first out of the gate in the race for Mr. SF Leather 2006 title. Always a fun contest at the Edge. Be there early!

Friday, July 29

Doug Mezzacoppo steps aside from his leather daddy title tonight at the Eagle Tavern when SF Leather Daddy XXIII will be chosen. Beer/soda bust and other shenanigans beginning at 2000. Don't miss this one!

SF Chapter of the Men of Discipline private party with "the way real men play" scenarios. For invite: www.menofdiscipline.org/playparty.html.

Saturday, July 30

Rubber Men of SF recruit party at the Powerhouse from 1600 to 1900 with \$8 beer/soda bust and other rubbery surprises.

In Washington, DC, it's the Master/slave conference. Learn more at: www.masterslaveconference.org/index.htm.

The 15 Association monthly play party (their biggest of the year!) at the secret location. For invite: 673-0452 or surf to: www.the15association.org.

Will Clarke's "Bad Boys by the Bay: A Burlesque Show" at Studio Z. \$60 advance, \$75 at door. Open bar, silent auction, porn actors, drag queens! Not a leather event, and who knew Will Clark was such a camp!

Weekend, July 29-31

Canadian Leather Man, Woman and Boy contest is taking place in Montreal, Canada this weekend. This is the 2nd annual contest. Thanks Paul Cintaur and Jayne Schmid for a great, great year. You did Canada proud!

Wednesday, August 3

Nipple Night at the Powerhouse from 2100 on. Featuring "twisted nipple" shots and cheap beer, cheap feels. No contest, no speeches, just tit for tat and tat for tit. Hi Curt!

Weekend, August 5-7

Mr. Las Vegas Leather & Leather Boy contests tonight at the Good Times bar. For info: (702) 743-7911 or email to: wisprnsoul@cox.net.

Saturday, August 6

Southern California Leather Woman contest MC'd by Vibby Bramlett & Gene Mar at Passive Arts Studio, 10914 So. La Cienega Blvd. Big crowd expected for this one! All Southern Calif. Major leather titleholders will attend, plus others!

Jay Harcourt steps aside from the Mr. Hayes Valley Leather 2005 contest tonight at Marlana's Bar. Thanks, Jay, for a fun, exceptional year with the title.

PORN

Summer sleazin'

by John F. Karr

Three things I cannot forgive: My mother. The movie of *The Wizard of Oz* for making it all a dream. And a sexo that promises but then doesn't deliver the prick tease of cock-containing costume. Sure, *Hot House Video* calls the movie *Trunks*, and burns up the box cover with pics of skimpy little Speedos that barely bag some bulging boners. But once it's playing, there's hardly a moment of stiffie-stretched swimwear to be seen. And that's too bad. A little more provocation by cock wrap would have made *Trunks* more unwrapping.

Despite the misleading signs of Speedo salaciousness in *Trunks*, what happens after the guys are naked is perfectly good porn. These five scenes of poolside prickery are effective examples of a classic porn genre: Studs Sweat in the Summer Sun. Foreskin fanciers will find lots of uncut guys; cocking lovers will find jewelry liberally applied. Three of the scenes are enlivened with flip-flop fucks, and two feature especially exciting Reverse Cowboy rides. Enzo Grimaldi broncos beautifully atop real-life lover Kirk Ziegler in the opening, and later, wow, Marco Paris pogos sensationally on Jack Ryan's pole.

These are top-of-the-line guys: Ryan's cock sends me, as does every inch of recent fave Grimaldi — with major *boeuff* on the hoof, he's the last word in humpy, hairy-chested Italian stud bottoms. Jason Hawke and Owen Hawk share one of the switch-hit scenes, as do luscious babe Troy Punk and Shane Rollins, who starts this one with moments of deeply sensual self-loving. He really gives himself up to sensation, and Troy joins in on the same wavelength.

Trunks somehow misses the slow-sizzling languor that should be a salient element of the summertime sexo, the communion of sexuality that made Colt's *Muscle Up!* a memorable example. Chalk it up to the editing, which burps the action along, jumping us into fucks midstroke, and in other dis-

Gas mask chic from *Skuff 3*.

continuous ways lessening our personal involvement. And it's just plain sloppy moviemaking to have two characters begin to watch a scene that we know has already ended. There's also a hard glare to the lights, and a blandness to the music. Yet a bonus scene on the second disc of the Director's Cut edition finds Fredrick Ford intently fisting Rik Jammer while beating his own impressively steely pipe. So *Trunks* won't disappoint. Its handsome guys apply themselves to sex pretty proficiently.

Gear set

Third time's the charm? Not necessarily. It can be more of the same. But if you liked *Skuff* and *Skuff 2*, you'll go for *Hot House Video's Skuff 3*. Same location — the cellblock, dungeon, and other ominous playspaces of a sex club. Same intent — stern guys in leather gear have anonymous, hard-attitude sex. *Skuff 3* isn't a film of relationships or chemistry. It's all about sexual virtuosity. Here's a cast of major-league fuckers with major-league cocks doing their major-league best to impress. Which, for the most part, they do, if somewhat impersonally. Indeed, the small amount of personal identity that's allowed is removed altogether in the movie's opening, when two guys

wear World War II gas masks. Somebody must think this is butch; I find this sort of Halloween gear laughable. Yet I was once at a party where the guys wore paper bags over their heads. Oh, they resisted — but only until they discovered the liberation of anonymity. And a gas mask is no more comical than a paper bag. The rest of the movie's gear is a glamorous and butch array of chaps and harnesses and some particularly juicy codpieces and cock jocks. Everybody's got the same matching set. "Hey, girl, whatcha wanna wear to the sex club tonight? How about the spiked codpiece and matching harness? Groovy — see ya there!"

But I'm joking here, and there's nothing funny about *Skuff 3*. Former twink star Jason Ridge gets a butch makeover and looks hot with facial stubble and leather cap. With Collin O'Neal and uncut youth Christoph Scharff, Ridge has a three-way that flip-flops through every imaginable combination of players and their parts. Always entertaining Troy Punk gets a hard workout from stern Kirk Ziegler, and although nothing bores me more than boot-licking, the view of Enzo Grimaldi's upturned ass as he slaves over Arpad Miklos' footwear is redeeming. A real Enzo fuck-fest follows.

The high point comes in a three-way during which estimably hung German star Thom Barron swaps asses with Scharf and Jason Kingsley, after plunging himself onto a bright red, deeply ridged dildo. Boy, Barron goes to town on this toy. This is the major kink in a movie that's otherwise pretty straightforward suck 'n' fuck, although a bonus scene has a couple minutes of Marcos Pirelli being dowsed by his buddy's piss.

The videography is good, the camera sure gets in there. The *Hot House* editing can be typically bumpy, and the lighting hard. Yet the music is good, a steady flow of atmospherically solid beats provided by DJ Little Rock. *Skuff 3* may not be classic, but it's got nearly two hours of earnest leather action. www.HotHouse.com. ▼

Karmal Knowledge reviews are archived at www.Reelguys.org.



Karmal Knowledge

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

MD is International Deaf Leather Boy. In the other part of the marathon contest, Roger Robb is Mr. Deaf Grizzly Bear, Rob Shannah is Mr. Deaf Bear, and Eric Madigan is Deaf Bear Cub.

Maybe one of these days I'll get pre-contest and post-contest press releases from the deaf brothers responsible for it!

Next up: Dore Alley!

It's Dore Alley Fair time! Even as you read this, hundreds of leather people are already here for the Mid-Summer Leather/BDSM party taking place this coming Sunday, July 31st on Dore Alley (between 9th & 10th Streets on Folsom Street). From Noon until 1900, hedonism will prevail for all those who DARE to partake of the fun day.

The SOMA motels/hotels/bed & breakfasts are sold out and it looks like another huge crowd for the street fair that was originally the Ringold Alley Fair staged by



Crystal Sisk, left, is Int'l. Ms. Deaf Leather, Michael Ratzlaff is Int'l. Mr. Deaf Leather, and Alex Leffers (kneeling) is Int'l. Deaf Leather Boy. They won their titles in Washington, D.C. last Friday, July 22.

IML 1985 Patrick Toner. Scores of other events will happen before, during and after the fair, so check out the various calendars to find those that appeal to you. Have a great weekend and play safe!

Mr. SF Leather race is on!

The Edge Bar is the first out of the gate in the quest for the Mr.

San Francisco Leather 2006 title taking place on Saturday, Sept. 24th at the Eagle Tavern. This Thursday, July 28th, Mr. Edge Leather 2006 will be chosen in their annual contest. The action starts around 2100 Todd Kinard is flying in from Texas to retire his sash and become a wuzzie. Hope to see you all there! ▼

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Debbie does the Castro

Marc Huestis presents Debbie Reynolds

by Donna Sachet

Without a doubt, the social occasion of the season was the personal appearance of **Debbie Reynolds** at the Castro Theatre last Friday night! **Marc Huestis** is to be congratulated for orchestrating this entertaining evening in his ongoing series of movie screenings with appearances by the original stars. From the moment we arrived, it was apparent that it would be a memorable evening, since the line to get in ran down Castro Street to 17th Street. Reynolds was seated royally in the lobby, carefully roped off from the masses, with a line of admirers lined up for a photo opportunity.

KRON-4's **Jan Wahl**, Comcast's **Tim Gaskin**, and I arrived simultaneously and were quickly ushered into Reynolds' presence for a barrage of photos, which the star took with gracious patience. Dressed in a cobalt-blue St. John knit-suit, she was as beautiful as she later proved to be delightful. Inside the theatre, a packed audience enjoyed historic movie clips, with regrettable technical difficulties, while waiting for the main event. **Connie Champagne** did a wonderful musical impersonation of Reynolds, Wahl introduced Huestis, and Huestis presented actress **Carol Lynley** to conduct an onstage interview. Then, with appropriate Wurlitzer organ fanfare, the lady of the hour descended the ramp and bounced onto the stage.

She was in charge throughout. Rather than the planned 5-10 minute question-and-answer, it turned into a rollicking, rambling remembrance of her incredible Hollywood career, including stories about **Shelly Winters**, **Gene Kelly**, her daughter **Carrie Fisher**, **Elizabeth Taylor**, **Marjorie Main**, **Shirley MacLaine**, and

many others. We got glimpses of her Las Vegas show, risqué tales of studio Hollywood, and lots of cleverly presented gay humor. Huestis then surprised her by bringing onstage the child actress who played the infant **Molly Brown**, who presented Reynolds with a body-double doll used in the film, to add to her extensive Hollywood memorabilia collection. After a dramatically presented certificate from Mayor **Gavin Newsom**, the curtains parted for the screening of a new print of the classic film *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*. A most memorable night was had by all!

Desert queen

Thank you to all who attended the recent screening of *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* at the Metreon Theatres, a benefit for AIDS Walk

San Francisco. Even without a major Hollywood star, hundreds of people enjoyed a lively on-stage exchange with **Sister Roma** and myself before enjoying this classic, ground-breaking film. Perhaps with the support of **Michael Spring**, marketing manager of the Metreon, this could become an ongoing series of campy films and fun fundraisers.

There is little doubt where the action is in the Castro, as evidenced by a string of events at The Edge last week. That tireless **Deana Dawn's** *Spurs 'n' Furs* show on Wednesday showcased a rousing musical show with **Tanya Hullana**, **Ed Morgan**, and **Eric Hanson**, while raising money for Under One Roof and celebrating the birthday of dedicated volunteer **Patrick Noonan**. Thursday saw the return of the Full Moon Contest, a raucous competition between those with attention-getting rear ends, and entertainment from **Sheba!** and **Mark Palladini**, while raising money for KDK, the New Orleans-style social and

philanthropic club, and Americans for Safe Access, committed to assuring the availability of medical marijuana for those in need. On Saturday, **Palladini** hosted a *Trailer Park Trash* show and contest. Details on that one are sketchy, but event coordinator **Gary Virginia** deserves a pile of credit for a slew of events and fundraisers in one week at a single bar!

Saturday night, International Mr. Leather and intermittent television anchor **Lenny Broberg** and I emceed the Alameda County Leather Corps title competition in Hayward. Much more detail is available in my colleague's *Leather* column, but suffice it to say that the club pulled together a stellar night of entertainment, despite the supernaturally hot weather. Upon returning to the city, we ran to *Ancient Babylon Tour*, the *Queer as Folk*-inspired party at Mezzanine, for a packed night of dancing among creative stage sets and with colorful dance productions. DJ **Manny Lehman** was incredibly masterful, and the always attentive and friendly staff made it a festive night.

Sunday was the ever-popular *Fresh* at Ruby Skye, packed to the rafters with pulsating, dancing men, incredible music and lighting effects, and a rousing end to the weekend.

Don't miss **Tim Gaskin's** rare television interviews with **Minnie Driver** and **Patti LaBelle** at the Black & White Ball on Comcast's original series *OUTSpoken* on Sat., July 30, 7 p.m., or Sun., July 31, at 8 p.m. This Saturday, join **Sister Roma**, **Heklina**, LA's **Momma**, and myself at **Will Clark's** *Bad Boys by the Bay*, a burlesque show at Studio Z, 314 11th St., benefiting Magnet. From 2-6 p.m., you'll be delighted by a host of porno stars and other entertainers in a zany afternoon not intended for the faint of heart. Sunday brings the infamous **Dore Alley Street Fair**. And Monday, August 1, is the highly anticipated **Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation's** *Help Is on the Way*, with stars too numerous to list, all gathered to entertain you for a great cause. ▼



Star Debbie Reynolds arrives at the Castro Theatre in impeccable style, escorted by impresario Marc Huestis.



Hot daddy Rafael with his daughter at *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* screening/AIDS Walk SF benefit at the Metreon.

'Luau 2005' at N'Touch

by Sweet Lips

This Monday, August 1, from 4 to 9 p.m., the famed N'Touch Bar at 1548 Polk Street, known far and wide as "the premiere Asian Gay dance club in San Francisco," will be showing their appreciation for their customers with their annual Luau. Owners **Gary De Bust** and **R. Manzana** have planned a spectacular event. The Luau banquet includes a 45-lb. roasted pig, honey baked ham, lemon chicken and all the trimmings, plus fabulous desserts. I can't wait to attend this grand event, and hopefully I'll see a lot of my old friends there. If you do attend — and everyone who's anyone will be there! — be sure to stay for the end of the show. I'm told there will be a spe-

cial surprise. If you wish more details, call the N'Touch at 415-441-8413.

Another big party to check out happens this Saturday, July 30 at Marlena's Bar, 488 Hayes St. in lovely Hayes Valley, where Empress **VIII Maxine** and the fetching Empress **XVI Phyllis** along with the Tenderloin **Tessie** Board Members will be presenting their 30th Anniversary Appreciation Party. The glamorous event will be hosted by **Davila** and special guests, and food for the fest will be prepared by the one and only **Pushy Phillis**, and she can cook! The party kicks off at 7 p.m. with a show at 9 p.m. It sounds like a blast, so whatever you do, don't miss it!

Dennis Tyler took me out to the Mix Bar last weekend to see **Marlow** and that man looks just as

he did 30 odd years ago! The bar had a nice crowd as always.

For those who inquired, my good friend **Jim Welsh** is doing fine after his recent illness. It will be good to see him up and around again. Miss you, guy.

David Kapp sends along word that anyone who wants to speak in person at the Community and Neighborhood Services Committee in support of Club Rendezvous' liquor license transfer to **Deco Lounge** at 510 Larkin St. may appear in person at 1 p.m. on Monday, August 1, at City Hall in Room 263. If you can't attend in person, e-mails and letters in support may still be sent to the mayor and/or your supervisor as soon as possible.

In general it's a good idea to support your favorite local gay bar and/or restaurant, as they do a lot to help the Gay Community. I know, as I have been here reporting on the scene for a long, long time! ▼

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Saraband

◀ page 28

and left out to cool. He's hard and bruised outside, and gooey inside — he's a mess. Worse still, Henrik's in charge of the education of Karin, an aspiring cellist, the offspring of Henrik and his recently deceased wife, Anna, whose startlingly emotive picture dominates the thoughts of all the characters.

The emotional core of the film belongs to Karin and Henrik, and Karin's struggle to free herself from his smothering tutoring and unhealthy affection. Father and daughter share a bed, but their relationship is not overtly incestuous.

Face time

The film, in the great Bergman tradition, is suffused with great speeches, delivered between great faces. Marianne, her once sublime beauty sagging but still resplendent, acts as a referee in the ring does, to see that everybody fights fairly, according to the rules. They don't, of course, but that's where the fun comes in.

Julia Dufvenius gives a startling performance as Karin, alternating

schoolgirl tears with a tough will that can stare down any adult. At one point she tells Marianne, "I know I won't get good advice from you, but I need someone to be a sounding board for my thoughts."

Ahlstedt as Henrik (he was funny uncle Carl in *Fanny and Alexander*) gives us layers of a ruined man, loathsome in both Johan's eyes and his own. Admitting in an ugly confrontation with Marianne that he is probably half-crazy, we know that Henrik will shatter when he finally falls.

Erland Josephson is magnificent as Johan, a willful man who could never tame his appetites, and is now left to contemplate the high cost of his fecklessness.

Liv Ullmann, Bergman's grand instrument, here functions as a kind of film host, comforting the distressed in any way she can. Her final moment with Johan is a triumph between two characters who have spent their erotic energy, but can still bid each other a pleasant good night in bed.

Saraband is a winter work from a great artist who in his youth showed many of us that naked feelings would always beat naked flesh on the screen. Now playing. ▼

Cabrillo fest

◀ page 33

electric-guitar concerto *Skvera*. In this work, Wallace, who composed the opera *Harvey Milk*, turns his attentions from Castro Street to his grandparents' ancient Ukrainian village.

The rest of Saturday's program includes a work from one of Michael Tilson Thomas' favorite young composers, the driving John Mackey. Mackey's *Redline Tango*, another West Coast premiere, precedes one of the classics of the modern literature, John Adams' 40-minute *Harmonielehre*.

The acoustics of Mission San Juan Baptista are so extraordinary

that concerts in the space frequently transport listeners to a transcendent dimension. This year, the festival's concluding Mission concert (Sunday, August 14 at 4 p.m.) offers three West Coast premieres, two from Pulitzer Prize winners. Pulitzer winner Dominick Argento offers *Reflections on a Hymn Tune*, while fellow Prize winner Aaron Jay Kernis shows up for his *Air for Cello and Orchestra*. The concert ends with the rich Concerto for Orchestra from Finnish master Magnus Lindberg. ▼

For tickets, see www.cabrillomusic.org or call 831-420-5260.

Lavender Tube

◀ page 35

on *Nightline*, if the Allies would just shut down the radical clerics and stopped allowing publication of material that might engender hate, and disallowed protests, there'd be no problem. So much for our "democratic" allies in the region.

Musharraf also told McFadden he'd rather have Osama bin Laden captured somewhere other than Pakistan for public relations reasons. Then he sort of giggled. Right.

Tuckered out

Meanwhile, if the carnage worldwide weren't terrible enough, there's right-wing ideologue (or is it just idiot?) Tucker Carlson, he of the jazzy bow-tie and prep-school looks (or *American Psycho* looks, depending on who's doing the looking), formerly of PBS and CNN, now on MSNBC, finding a little humor in terror.

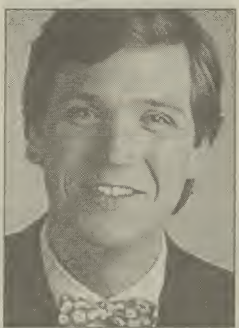
Here's a brief exchange between Carlson and his guest on his new show *The Situation with Tucker Carlson*.

Carlson: "Actually, I am objectively pro-France. You know, France blew up the Rainbow Warrior, that Greenpeace ship in Auckland Harbor in the '80s. And I've always respected them."

Guest: "That made you like them?"

Carlson: "Yes. Yes. It won me over."

For the record, the incident in question involved the death of a



MSNBC host Tucker Carlson

photographer and the sinking of the Greenpeace ship, and engendered international outrage, even from anti-environmentalists.

Carlson should be ashamed of making such statements ever, but especially in the current climate of terror attacks. MSNBC president Neal Shapiro should be told viewers don't find this kind of chat amusing or clever.

We prefer the tone of the two Tennessee sisters gravely injured in the London 7/7 attacks, who spoke on *Good Morning America* July 22 about finally being able to come home to the US (both on stretchers — neither can walk yet due to the extremity of their injuries, and both still need extensive surgery). These young women, college students on vacation, have already forgiven their attackers, and feel desperately sad for Londoners. They made America look good. If only... Stay tuned. ▼

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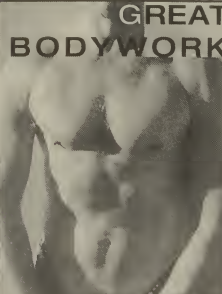
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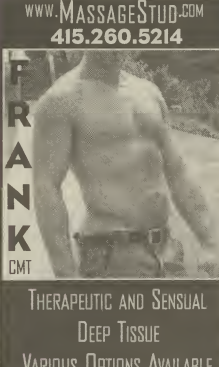
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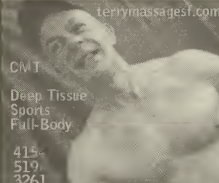


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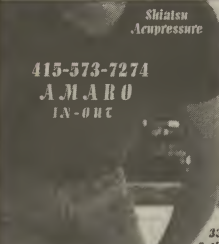


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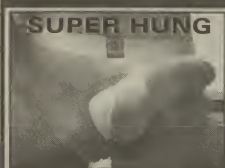
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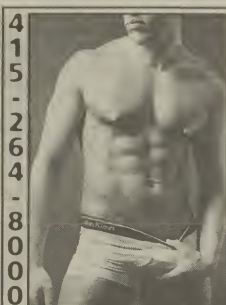
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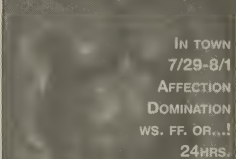
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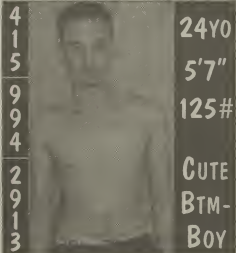
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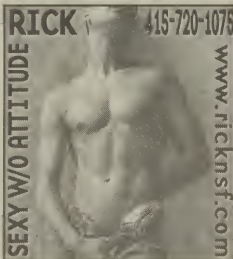
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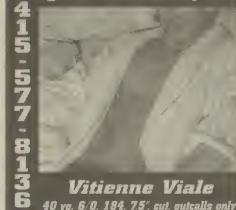


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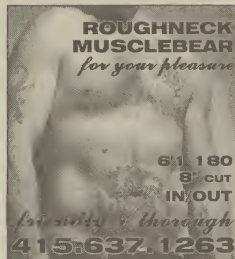
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July 2005

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4pm to 7pm
Up Your Alley Pair Winners contest
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PERSONALS

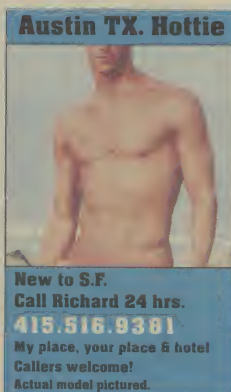
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Mack

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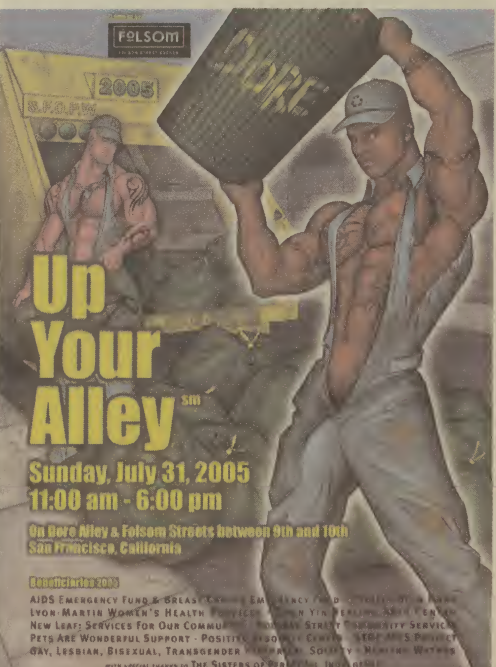


Up Your Alley

Sunday, July 31, 2005
11:00 am - 6:00 pm

On Dore Alley a Folsom Streets between 9th and 10th
San Francisco, California

Don't miss this!
AIDS EMERGENCY FUND • BREAST CANCER • SEXY FUND • FOLKLORE • FOLKLORE
LVO • MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HEALTH • BOUTIQUE • SEXY FUND • FOLKLORE • FOLKLORE
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PETS ARE WONDERFUL SUPPORT • POSITIVE PERSONAL GROWTH • STOP AIDS PROJECT
DAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER • HONOLULU STREET • SEXY FUND • FOLKLORE
WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SISTERS OF DORE ALLEY FOR THEIR GIFT!



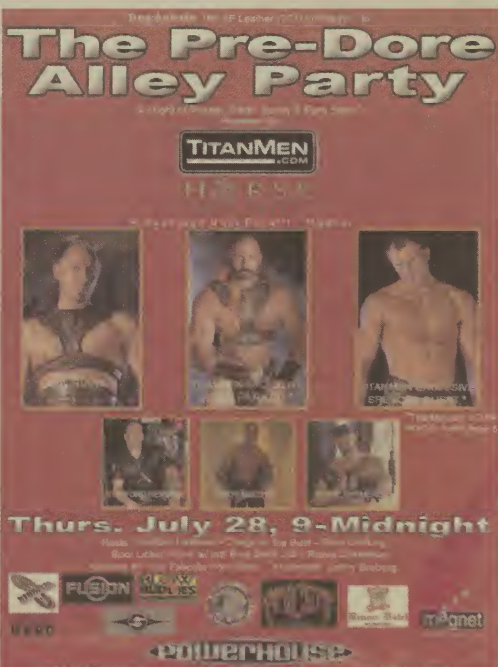
The Pre-Dore Alley Party

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THURS. JULY 28, 9-MIDNIGHT

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Black, Latino, Asian, and more. Free drinks, food, and more.
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Adventurous Man for You!

We represent an attractive, GWM CEO, 46 years, 6'1", blond, blue eyes, HIV(-) with an athletic build. He is intelligent and passionate in work, friends, love and life. He's fun, enjoys adventure travel, trips to London and NYC for shows, biking, sailing, or just hanging out. He loves to laugh, can be silly to romantic and is a down to earth kind of guy, especially with a special, loving, passionate guy...

Are You a Passionate Guy?

He is seeking an intelligent, artistic, fun loving, slim/trim boyishly good looking guy age 24-34, HIV(-) with lots of energy and passion, who wants to explore the world with his best friend.

Are you comfortable in first class and five star hotels as well as sleeping in a hut in the Amazon? Do you enjoy the arts and being active? Do you enjoy being serious and silly? Romantic and Nurturing? If so, stop reading this and respond today! It's FREE! Visit our website to learn more how you can apply to meet him. Ad Code 02757.

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PARTING
GLANCE

7/20 71 Haight Bus At 8PM

You: African American Listening To Jpod. Denim Jacket. Khaki Pants. Sandals. Me: Caucasian, Shaved Head, Blue Eyes. We Got On Together. I Got Off Alone At Baker. Let's Meet.
☎ 71588

BUZZ - BLUE-EYED BUDDHIST

Enjoyed meeting you at 933 Harrison Pride Sunday. You're my type. Let's meet for Gelato or something. I wish we'd exchanged numbers but etiquette was unknown. Hop you contact NOBU.
☎ 71582

BART 6/26 SUN 6:30PM TO SOUTH

Me: Asian Male wearing Abercrombie. Sweat shirt, blue shirt, dark Cargo pants, sunglasses. You: White Male with 2 friends. Our eyes connect. I got off @ San Bruno @ 7PM.
☎ 71580.

SEEKING
RELATIONSHIP

Muy Solo In Santa Rosa

I Am Spanish Masculine 49 Yr Old 5'6" 180 Good Looking For Serious Relationship Donde Estas Llama Me Top Or Bottom
☎ 71591

Seeking LTR W/ Another In Shape Guy

During The Week We Both Lead Our Busy Lives. Looking Forward To The Weekend When We Can Be Together. I'm 48 5'9" 150 Gym Toned, Tan, Smooth, Shaved Head, Beautiful Cock, Nice Ass, Mass. Bottom. Into Yoga, Zen, Hiking, Artist (Painter) Business Man, Financially Secure. No STDs. No Smoke/Drugs/Alcohol.
☎ 71591

Retired WM Seeks Older Asian

Attractive GWM, 60, 5'11", 200, Caring, Secure, Educated, Enjoys Travel, Hometime, Kissing, Contact, Seeks That Special Small-Framed, Smooth GAM, 50+, Slender, Affectionate, Versatile, w/Free Time And Possible LTR.
☎ 71585

Top Me

Asian seeking attractive smooth gym toned well endowed white male under 40 to oral service and bottom for.
☎ 71584

RVentana Inn Big Sur 46 Look 36

Spa Weekend Soon. Join Me. Incurable Romantic Warm GWM 6'-1", 185#, BrGr, Draw, Read, Sip, Twirl, Hug, Kiss By Fireplace. Limited Time Offer By Executive.
☎ 71581

SEEKING
ADVENTURE

HEAVY, INTENSE J/O DIRT TALK

Jewish male 52, seeks parrying buddy for lengthy encounters, your place only. Mainly j/o and dirty talk (not abusive talk) and possibly oral life.
☎ 71579.

FETISHES

POZ Bik Freak Rimming Fisting Western Addition 5'9". 190 Bald Stocky Bik Freak Seeking POZ Bottoms 4 Assplay Toys. Video Watching More.
☎ 71589

MISTRESS SEEKS MALE SLAVE

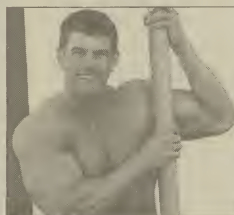
BLK Dominant Female seeks Caucasian male slave for servitude. I'm a Lesbian. No sex involved.
☎ 71586

Friendship Fun Love Sincerity ltr

Connection wanted. Let's meet. I like movies, outdoors, the simple life (low maintenance), books, NPR, newspapers, small pets. Good clean fun with partner is my desire. Out. 30's.
☎ 71587

Whip Master Wanted

Divorced Straight Male 48, white, professionally employed, tall, slender, good looks seeks master for naked whippings. Your place only!
☎ 71583

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CATEGORY

- Parting Glances ☐
Seeking Relationship ☐
Seeking Adventure ☐
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Fetishes ☐
Couples ☐
Others ☐

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Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
Address _____ Evening Telephone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

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E31

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E36

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E31

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E31

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Seeks Fit Handsome Hung Tops &
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E30

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Type Style
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